

# European Science and Technology Highlights National Science Foundation Europe-Eurasia Office 2012



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# 1 Europe

## 1.1 Is €80 Billion on the Horizon for European Research? [Sara Reardon](#)

### *Summary*

At a press conference on 30 November, research commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn presented a proposal to increase overall E.U. research funding from roughly €57 billion for the current 7-year period (2007–13) to €80 billion (\$108 billion) for 2014 to 2020. The European Commission, the E.U.'s executive body, is urging the union's 27 member states to invest this sum in a broad-ranging program dubbed Horizon 2020 that will include basic science, postgraduate training, and near-market product development. Research advocates welcome the European Commission's commitment to funding science, but Horizon 2020 must still be approved by the European Parliament and E.U. member states, represented by the budget-conscious Council of Ministers.

*Sources: January 2012*

*Science 9 December 2011: Vol. 334 no. 6061 pp. 1331-1333*

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/334/6061/1331.summary>

## 1.2 Europe appoints science adviser

### *Scottish cell biologist Anne Glover hopes to influence EU policy-making*

The dearth of independent, sound scientific advice in European policy-making provokes endless complaints from science advocates, who blame it for the continent's wrangling over charged issues such as genetically modified crops and nanotechnology. They might finally have a saviour, in the person of Anne Glover, a Scottish molecular and cell biologist, who was named last week as Europe's first chief scientific adviser. More than two years after pledging to create the post, José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, officially announced Glover's appointment on 5 December. He also outlined her role, ending long-standing speculation about the extent of the job's remit. *Nature* first reported that Glover had won the job on 21 November (see *Nature* <http://doi.org/g8k>; 2011). "*I have long pressed for the creation of a high-level scientific adviser at the heart of the European Commission, which is key to ensuring that development and implementation of EU policy and legislation are underpinned by a robust evidence base,*" says John Beddington, the United Kingdom's chief scientific adviser.

Glover, who was not available for interview, spent most of her academic career at the University of Aberdeen, UK, studying microbial diversity and how organisms respond to stress at a cellular level. She has served as chief scientific adviser to Scotland's government since 2006, and will leave the job on 21 December before beginning her new life in Brussels in the new year.

Glover will report directly to Barroso, providing him with advice on policy proposals, and guidance on interpreting uncertainty in scientific evidence. She will also have a key role in strategic planning for emergencies — such as the *Escherichia coli* outbreak that swept across Europe this year — and providing updates on scientific advances and novel technologies. Another key role will be to communicate science to the public, particularly the benefits and risks of new technologies.

Glover will have an office in the Berlaymont building in Brussels, where Barroso works, putting her at the heart of European policy-making. Her position will be at a high managerial level in the European Commission, equivalent to a director-general, which other science advisers believe will give her the independence and authority to succeed.

The Bureau of European Policy Advisers will provide Glover with administrative support. But it is still uncertain whether she will have her own team of scientists to support her. Nor is it clear what her relationship will be with other existing Brussels-based commission advisory groups, such as the European Research Area Board — which advises on research policy — and the Joint Research Centre, a collection of seven research institutes carrying out research relevant to policy.

Ultimately, Glover's success will depend on having "direct access to the relevant science policy-makers", says Robert May, a former chief scientific adviser to the UK government. "She must have the authority to

“speak the truth, never twisting the science to suit political expedience, but also recognize that policy needs will sometimes override what you think as a scientist.”

*Sources: January 2012*

*BY NATASHA GILBERT IN BRUSSELS*

<http://www.nature.com>

### **1.3 ICSU's new Executive Director appointed**

The International Council for Science welcomes Dr. Steven Wilson as Executive Director. Dr. Wilson will provide important leadership as ICSU seeks to implement its newly approved second Strategic Plan 2012–2017.

*Source: January 2012*

<http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/icsu2019s-new-executive-director-appointed>

### **1.4 ERC Receives 710 Synergy Grant Applications**

*By Tania Rabesandratana - Research Europe Today – January 27, 2012*

The European Research Council has received 710 applications for its first round of Synergy Grants. The grants will fund projects involving two to four researchers from different disciplines. The ERC plans to fund 10 to 15 such projects in 2012, meaning the success rate will be around 2 per cent. Each project will receive between €10 million and €15 million for research projects lasting up to six years.

“The scheme is launched on an experimental basis, meaning we will closely monitor the response and we are therefore also devoting only a relatively small budget to it for now,” Nowotny told Research Europe when the grants were launched in June last year. The call was published in October 2011 and the results are expected to be published at the end of the year.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article at:*

[http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com\\_news&template=rr\\_2col&view=article&articleId=1157374](http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com_news&template=rr_2col&view=article&articleId=1157374)

### **1.5 The Case Against Internationalization**

*February 2, 2012, 3:23 pm*

*By [David Wheeler](#)*

Is internationalization becoming too popular? When ideas become too popular, then academics, despite their feisty image, are less willing to dissent. Associate deans or assistant professors have plenty of their own battles to fight, like getting their share of the budget or winning tenure. When they see the internationalization theme sweeping across campus, they resign themselves to yet another academic fad. They keep their head below the parapet, quietly focusing on their own or their departments' interests. Being against internationalization may look like being against diversity: a highly risky personal proposition.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://chronicle.com/blogs/planet/2012/02/02/the-case-against-internationalization/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/planet/2012/02/02/the-case-against-internationalization/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)



### **1.6 Evolution of a European Research Area**

Progress to a European Research Area remains painfully slow, despite the Commission's fine intentions

*February 8, 2012*

One of the less convincing planks in Máire Geoghegan-Quinn's public platform is her oft-repeated promise to “implement” the

European Research Area (ERA) by 2014. With the best will in the world, it doesn't lie within the remit of the research and innovation commissioner, or any politician or official, to 'implement' the ERA. It will, instead, require concerted action from a host of individuals and institutions.

The bad news is that such action is unlikely to be forthcoming from everyone at once. The good news is that it is those universities and nations that take action to open themselves up who will benefit most from the ERA, as it evolves.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available:*

[http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com\\_news&template=rr\\_2col&view=article&articleId=1160476](http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com_news&template=rr_2col&view=article&articleId=1160476)

## **1.7 Some 50 European Research Council projects now funded to spur innovation**

*14 February 2012*

The European Research Council (ERC) has today announced the conclusion of its competition for Proof of Concept funding. Introduced last year, it allows researchers who are already ERC grant holders to bridge the gap between research and the earliest stage of an innovation. In this call, a total of 52 grants have now been awarded, of which the final 22 were announced today. The first 30 grants were awarded in October 2011.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press\\_release/files/erc\\_pr\\_poc\\_2011\\_%20second\\_results.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press_release/files/erc_pr_poc_2011_%20second_results.pdf)

## **1.8 European Research Ministers in Copenhagen**

Danish EU Council Presidency 2012 Following an invitation from the Danish council presidency, research ministers from across Europe met in Copenhagen in early February 2012 in order to discuss the future European Framework Program for Research "Horizon 2020". The council is responsible for the internal market and for securing the best framework conditions for industry and research. Horizon 2020 is to start on 1 January 2014 and aims to strengthen Europe for global competition.

*European Research Area: Creative Stimuli for Europe's Intellectual Capital*

The further implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) and the development of the future EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020" are currently on the agenda of European research ministers. Europe must implement the ERA and meet the growth expectations of the Europe 2020 Strategy through forward-looking research and innovation policies - only then will Europe be able to compete globally. The German Federal Government views the future framework programme as the central strategic instrument in this process.

Important social and economic challenges of the 21st century include areas such as energy, climate, resources, health, nutrition, and demographic change. Answers and solutions can only be found through European or worldwide cooperation in education, research, and science. Simultaneously, the global competition for technologies and markets is constantly growing. We must strengthen the competitiveness of European companies by advancing key technologies while expediting and improving the implementation of research findings into new products, processes, and services. The humanities and social sciences play an essential role in interdisciplinary efforts to meet the key challenges faced by European society. In Germany and Europe, institutions of higher education are the central medium for this kind of research.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.bmbf.de/en/959.php>

## **1.9 2011 Research and Innovation European Union Scoreboard**



The European Commission has recently released its 2011 Research and Innovation Union Scoreboard, which includes innovation indicators and trend analyses for the EU27 Member States, as well as for Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. It also includes comparisons based on a more reduced set of indicators between the EU27 and 10 global competitors.

The IUS 2011 distinguishes between 3 main types of indicators and 8 innovation dimensions, capturing in total 25 different indicators (see attached link for full report). Based on the previous European Innovation Scoreboard, the tool is meant to help monitor the implementation of the Europe 2020 Innovation Union initiative by providing a comparative assessment of the innovation performance of the EU27 Member States and the relative strengths and weaknesses of their research and innovation systems.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.innovation.public.lu/en/actualites/2012/02/ius-2011/index.html>

#### **1.10 Research Council chief: More cash, less change for Horizon 2020**



Under the European Commission's new proposal for funding the eighth framework program – Horizon 2020 – the European Research Council (ERC) is set to see a 77% boost in funds to €13.2 billion. ERC President Helga Nowotny tells EurActiv that Horizon represents a validation of its success.

*Helga Nowotny is a leading Austrian social scientist who became president of the European Research Council in 2010. She spoke to EurActiv's Jeremy Fleming from Budapest. The ERC is based in Brussels.*

*Source: April 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://www.euractiv.com/innovation-enterprise/research-council-chief-cash-change-horizon-2020-interview-509889?utm\\_source=EurActiv%20Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=f48213c24d-newsletter\\_innovation\\_amp%3B\\_enterprise&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.euractiv.com/innovation-enterprise/research-council-chief-cash-change-horizon-2020-interview-509889?utm_source=EurActiv%20Newsletter&utm_campaign=f48213c24d-newsletter_innovation_amp%3B_enterprise&utm_medium=email)

#### **1.11 2011: Record year for patenting in Europe, led by Germany**

The European Office for Patents (OBE) released Friday, March 23, 2012 its annual report for 2011, officially presented by its President, French Benoît Battistelli, in the Siemens Forum in Munich (Bavaria). With 2,235 patents last year, Siemens is leading the number of requests made to the European Office for Patents, ahead of the Dutch Philips (1759 applications), and the Korean Samsung (1733 requests). In spite of competition from American and Asian giants, there is also a German group in fourth place (BASF, 1638 requests) and Robert Bosch in 8th place (1,192 applications). Apart from Philips and the German groups, the next-ranked European company is Swedish Ericsson with 1148 requests, then comes the French Alcatel-Lucent in 16th place with 744 patents. The OBE granted 62,112 patents in total in 2011, up 7% more than in 2010. Germany is Europe's champion with 14% of applications, but France - with 5% of the total - showed an increase of 3%, mainly due to an increase in filings in the area of transport and electromobility. Asian companies continue to gain ground with 33% of registered filings at the OBE, the United States portion has fallen to 24%. Five European companies are in the top-10 ranking of filers.

*Source: April 2012*

*- "Begehrter Schutz", article du Süddeutsche Zeitung – March 24, 2012*

*- "China holt auf", article du Süddeutsche Zeitung – March 25, 2012*

*- Press release from the European Office for Patents (OEB) March 23, 2012 - [http://www.epo.org/news-issues/news/2012/20120323\\_fr.html](http://www.epo.org/news-issues/news/2012/20120323_fr.html)*



### 1.12 In Europe, Anti-Immigration Measures Run Up Against Efforts to Attract Foreign Students

By Aisha Labi



Immigration is among the more contentious issues in contemporary politics and often becomes a flash point during times of economic duress. As universities strive to increase their share of the growing number of internationally mobile students, immigration policy in parts of Europe has come into conflict with the ambitions of the higher-education sector.

*Pierre Verdy, AFP, Getty Images*

In February, students in Paris protest regulations that restrict foreign students' ability to stay in the country after graduation.

*Source: June 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://chronicle.com/article/In-Europe-Anti-Immigration/132193/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/In-Europe-Anti-Immigration/132193/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

### 1.13 Making the Most of Our Potential: Consolidating the European Higher Education Area

The Ministers in charge of Higher Education in 47 countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) met on April 26 and 27, 2012 in Bucharest to survey the progress of the Bologna process and to jointly define EHEA priorities for 2012-2015. The Ministers identified five areas for action:

- Provide a quality higher education readily accessible to all;
- Advance the employability of graduates to meet the needs of Europe: develop innovation and ensure a strong link between research and training, and in particular, support doctoral training;
- Develop qualifications frameworks as tools of transparency, openness and flexibility;
- Increase mobility and, towards this end, ensure balanced exchanges and further develop joint programs and degrees;
- Improve data collection and transparency and develop, in particular, common indicators (employability, social responsibility, grants and loans portability, student and staff mobility).

The Ministers have identified twenty priorities for actions to be taken at national and European levels.

Among the national priorities:

- recommendations urging to create conditions encouraging student-centered learning and innovative teaching method in higher education institutions.
- a strong incentive to develop and strengthen cooperation with business, especially for defining the content of training programs in order to advance the employability of graduates.
- delineate national qualifications frameworks in line with the qualifications frameworks of the EHEA and develop by the end of 2012 legislation and national regulations in agreement with the Lisbon Declaration (signed in 1997).

Priorities at the European level:

- take up the above national priorities, in particular with respect to learning outcomes, recognition of degrees and encouragement of more joint programs and degrees.
- insist on measures to ensure and enhance the quality and transparency of national systems, mutual recognition, and the employability and mobility in the third cycle.
- call for building bridges between the EHEA and the European Research Area / ERA.

A report will be drawn at the next ministerial conference to be held in 2015 in Yerevan (Armenia)

*Source: June 2012*

Full article available at (in French):

<http://www.aeres-evaluation.fr/Actualites/Actualites-de-l-agence/Espace-europeen-de-l-enseignement-superieur-Conference-ministerielle-2012>

Additional information at:

[http://www.ehea.info/Uploads/\(1\)/Bucharest%20Communique%202012\(2\).pdf](http://www.ehea.info/Uploads/(1)/Bucharest%20Communique%202012(2).pdf)

#### 1.14 Focusing a Corporate Lens on Global Universities

June 13, 2012, 5:07 pm - By [David Wheeler](#)



As universities seek to be global, they should consider an obvious model: multinational corporations.

What leads me to suggest using a corporate lens to look at global universities? I've heard Qantas talk about forming alliances with other airlines, a process akin to creating university consortia; tried to understand how the University of Melbourne snagged a partnership with IBM; and been fascinated by the strategies of companies like Johnson & Johnson to recruit the best university graduates.

Universities might learn from multinational corporations in a few areas in particular, including employer branding, human resources, and partnership management. Lastly, universities can learn from corporations how to more effectively connect with them. Obvious, but often not done.

Global corporate brands adopt local identities. Can universities do the same?

Source: June 2012

Full article available at:

[http://chronicle.com/blogs/planet/2012/06/13/focusing-a-corporate-lens-on-global-universities/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/planet/2012/06/13/focusing-a-corporate-lens-on-global-universities/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

#### 1.15 EUR 1.75 billion for new ERC research projects (Europe)

A total budget of €1.75 billion was announced on 9 July 2012 by the European Commission to support projects funded by the European Research Council in 2013. Open to independent researchers of any age or career stage, the new ERC calls are meant to help top scientists from all fields (Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences, and Social Sciences & Humanities) to produce the very best cutting-edge science and to affirm Europe's place as a world class destination for research. It is estimated that this funding will support around 900 excellent researchers in 2013 (each employing a further 6 team members on average). It is part of the European Commission's final, and biggest, call for proposals for research projects under its Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

Source: July 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.innovation.public.lu/en/actualites/2012/07/erc/index.html>

#### 1.16 European Commission backs open-access science publishing (Europe)

By Chris Wickham, July 17, 2012

The European Commission, which controls one of the world's largest science budgets, has backed calls for free access to publicly funded research in a move that could force a major change in the business model for publishers. "Taxpayers should not have to pay twice for scientific research and they need seamless access to raw data," said Neelie Kroes, European Commission vice-president for the Digital Agenda. The EC said in a [communication issued on July 17](#) that open access will be a "general principle" applied to grants awarded through the Horizon 2020, the EU's Research & Innovation funding program for 2014-2020.

From 2014 all articles produced with funding from Horizon 2020 will have to be accessible and the goal is for 60 percent of European publicly funded research to be available by 2016.

*Source: July 2012*

*Full article available at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/17/us-science-publishing-eu-idUSBRE86G0FS20120717>*

#### **1.17 Joint statement – European Commission (Europe)**

The European Commission issued a joint statement with associations of research funding and performing organisations (EARTO, Science Europe, NordForsk) and university associations (EUA, LERU) on enhancing their partnership to reach the goals of the European Research Area.

*Source: July 2012*

*Full article available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/consultation/era\\_communication-programme\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/consultation/era_communication-programme_en.htm)*

*A comment about this also appeared in Science News*

*(<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/07/european-researchers-strive-for-.html>).*

#### **1.18 Science Europe (SE) (Europe)**

The newly established Brussels-based association of European research funding and research performing organizations, outlined its priorities for future actions which include: open access, the European grant union, ex-post evaluation, peer review, research infrastructures and research careers. The organization has also recently announced the nomination of six Chairs of its Scientific Committees which will be set up in the upcoming months to provide input and support for the development of Science Europe's policies.

*Source: July 2012*

*Full article available at: <http://www.scienceeurope.org/index.php?page=news>*

#### **1.19 Are Central and Eastern European EU Member States lagging behind in the Research Framework Program?**

A study commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research looks at the success of ten Central and Eastern European Member States (EU10 MS) in the excellence-based competition for funding under the EU Research Framework Program. The main factors influencing the participation of these countries are identified as the personnel and financial capacities of a country in the area of research and development. On average, the EU10 MS have 245 R&D personnel per 100,000 inhabitants, in comparison to 560 in the fifteen Western EU countries. Further investments in research infrastructures, the development of national research policies including stronger use of competitive procedures and more active involvement in the coordination of European projects are measures recommended for improving the competitiveness of these countries in the future.

*Source: August 2012*

*Summary of the study available at:*

*<http://www.moez.fraunhofer.de/en.html>*

#### **1.20 Europe's lack of data and governance leave door open to misconduct, says ESF**

Only five out of fifteen European countries surveyed by the European Science Foundation have a national body that deals with research misconduct, according to data seen by Research Europe. Croatia, Denmark, Norway, the UK and Poland have a national institution that governs research integrity, while Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden have institution-specific offices with national oversight. But many big research players such as Germany, France and Spain leave institutions to fend for themselves when dealing with research misconduct cases.

*Source: August 2012*

*Full article by Inga Vesper available at:*

[http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com\\_news&template=rr\\_2col&view=article&articleId=1217292](http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com_news&template=rr_2col&view=article&articleId=1217292)

### **1.21 European business to increase R&D spending despite crisis**

Top EU businesses expect their investments in research and development to grow by an average of 4% annually over the period 2012 to 2014, according to a European Commission's survey of some of Europe's companies that invest the most in R&D. The front runner is the software and computer services sector, which expects R&D investment to grow by 11% per year on average. Surveyed companies highlighted the strong positive effects of fiscal incentives, national grants, EU financial support and public-private partnerships on innovation both at national and EU level. In contrast, the time needed to obtain intellectual property right protection and the costs of that protection were seen by many as key factors impacting negatively on their innovation activities.

*Source: August 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/905&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

### **1.22 Feasibility study for the European Researcher Development Framework**

The ESF Member Organizations Forum "European Alliance on Research Career Development" and the UK-based Vitae organization have published a feasibility study for a pan-European professional development framework for researchers. The study assesses the applicability across Europe of a generic framework for the professional development of researchers based on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) developed in the United Kingdom.

*Source: September 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.esf.org/media-centre/ext-single-news/article/new-esf-cofounded-feasibility-study-calls-for-a-single-european-researcher-development-framework-84.html>

### **1.23 The European University Association examines mobility strategies in European universities**

The European University Association (EUA) published a new report 'Mobility: Closing the gap between policy and practice', examining the issue of academic mobility which covers university students, young researchers, academic and administrative staff. The publication is the outcome of a two-year project 'Mapping university mobility of staff and students – MAUNIMO' led by EUA. The project has explored the perspectives of 34 universities from 21 countries on mobility and strategies institutions are using to respond to policy pressures at both European and national levels to increase mobility. These policy initiatives include, for example, the targets set by the European Union, which state that by 2020, 20% of all students graduating should have had a study or training period abroad.

*Source: September 2012*

*Full article and report are available at: <http://www.maunimo.eu/index.php/component/content/article/53>*

### **1.24 Joint research calls between European funding organizations and the NSF in the field of plant sciences**

The new European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) in molecular plant sciences Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences (ERA-CAPS), has been established in order to embed molecular plant sciences more

firmly in national policies whilst continuing to fund excellent research in this area by means of two joint calls. In the first joint ERA-CAPS call, funding organizations from 14 European countries are participating including: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and United Kingdom. The National Science Foundation, an ERA-CAPS observer, will accept proposals to a parallel call to be launched by the Plant Genomics Research Program (PGRP) in November, in areas that meet the goals of the Program. U.S. researchers can apply to the NSF to participate in ERA-CAPS consortia.

*Source: October 2012*

*More information available at:*

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5338&org=IOS&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5338&org=IOS&from=home)

<http://www.eracaps.org/joint-calls/era-caps-calls>

### **1.25 US participation in the 7th Framework Program for research of the European Union: facts and figures**

The BILAT-USA (Bilateral Coordination for the Enhancement and Development of Science and Technology Partnerships between the European Union and the United States of America) project has published an analysis of existing instruments, regulations and obstacles for U.S. participation in the 7th Framework Program (FP7) for research of the European Union. The report provides data based on feedback from 130 Project Coordinators and 105 U.S. Participants in FP7 projects. Out of the 105 U.S. project partners who took part in the online survey, 9 reported that they requested EU funding but were not funded under FP7.

While scientific aspects, such as knowledge sharing or access to specific material, infrastructures, laboratories, or the scientific community are not perceived as issues neither for European coordinators nor for U.S. project partners, administrative and legal constraints are seen as real obstacles to collaboration. Data indicate that for 48% of U.S. FP7 project partners, the lack of funding for the U.S. partner is a very relevant or relevant obstacle to FP7 participation. In addition, 38% of U.S. FP7 project partners claim that applicable law/jurisdiction is a very relevant or relevant obstacle. The report concludes with a series of recommendations to reduce the administrative and legal barriers to EU-U.S. FP7 collaboration, to establish bilateral agreements between the European Commission and U.S. national funding organizations regarding applicable law and jurisdictions and to implement more flexible and straightforward administrative procedures.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full report and statistics available at:* <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/bilat-usa/news/id/269>

<http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/document/show/id/475>

### **1.26 Cooperation between European and Chinese universities in Engineering Education**

The Consortium Linking Universities of Science and Technology for Education and Research (CLUSTER), an association of twelve scientific-technical universities in Europe, and eighteen Chinese universities have agreed on a closer cooperation in engineering education: the "Harbin Roadmap". The agreement, signed on the occasion of the "3rd Sino-EU Workshop on Engineering Education" in Harbin, China, includes plans to offer a Chinese-European doctoral school for sustainability engineering, a double master degrees program, and postgraduate summer and winter schools. Starting from 2013, several 'Sino-EU Doctoral Schools' will be set up, for example for Sustainability Engineering (SESE)," points out Secretary General of CLUSTER Professor Jürgen Becker from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany. Each of these international doctoral schools will offer ten to fifteen doctoral projects, with two to four universities from Europe and China participating in each one.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:* [http://www.kit.edu/visit/pi\\_2012\\_12048.php](http://www.kit.edu/visit/pi_2012_12048.php)

### **1.27 Top early-career researchers to receive €800 million in EU funding**

The European Research Council (ERC) has selected 536 early-career top researchers across Europe in the latest 'Starting Grant' competition, with a budget of almost €800 million. With grants of up to €2 million



per project, this will enable the most promising scientists to develop their best ideas at the frontiers of knowledge. It will also allow them to build their own research teams, engaging more than 3,000 postdocs and PhD students. In this competition, 4741 applications were received and the overall success rate was 11.3%.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/946&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **1.28 Extra funding boost for ERC researchers**

A total of 33 European Research Council (ERC) grantees are set to receive top-up funding to help them get their ideas to market. As part of the ERC's 'Proof of Concept' scheme, the grants, worth €150 000 each, will help researchers move their ideas from the research stage to the innovation and development stage. Designed for researchers who have already been awarded ERC grants, these Proof of Concept grants will hopefully help them push their basic research towards the market.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS\\_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=6&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0139e5e2aeb1:55ac:25ea2e7f&RCN=35001](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=6&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0139e5e2aeb1:55ac:25ea2e7f&RCN=35001)

### **1.29 European funding opportunities for US researchers showcase in San Francisco, 6-7 December 2012**

Destination Europe is an initiative to showcase the opportunities Europe has to offer for researchers in the world. It provides a platform for European Member States, research organizations, funding agencies and European Commission services to highlight the programs, initiatives, excellent institutions and innovation clusters. The next "*Destination Europe*" event will take place on 6 and 7 December 2012 in San Francisco. It will include two plenary sessions and break-out sessions dedicated to specific funding schemes (European and national), combined with an exhibition space for stands to inform interested participants.

*Source: October 2012*

### **1.30 New EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation**

The European Commission has published its new strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, with a view of implementing it under the new research funding program Horizon 2020 that will run from 2014-2020. The strategy will focus on strengthening the European Union's excellence and attractiveness in research and innovation and its economic and industrial competitiveness. It will also address global societal challenges, such as food and energy security and climate change.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=strategy>

### **1.31 The European Research Council (ERC) announces the last calls for proposals for Consolidator Grants and Synergy Grants as part of the current 7th EU Research Framework Program**

The "Consolidator Grants" aim at researchers 7-12 years (in exceptional cases up to 16 ½ years) after completion of their PhD thesis. The grants are awarded for a period of up to 5 years with a total amount of up to 2.75 million Euros per project. The publication of this call is expected for 7 November 2012, with a closing date for applications in February 2013.

The "Synergy Grants" were published on 10 October 2012, with a deadline for applications in January 2013. This funding scheme addresses groups of two to four excellent researchers. The grants are

awarded for a period of up to 6 years with a total amount of up to 15 million Euros per project. All schemes are open to researchers of any nationality and any current place of work under the condition that the research project is conducted in a public or private research organization located in one of the European Union Member States or Associated Countries.

*Source: November 2012*

### **1.32 ERC Scientific Council adopts guidelines on Scientific Misconduct Strategy to uphold research integrity in ERC research projects**

During its plenary session in Limassol (Cyprus), the governing body of the European Research Council (ERC) - the Scientific Council - adopted guidelines on Scientific Misconduct Strategy. This document, which is considered the first ever at a European level, aims to detect and treat any allegations of scientific misconduct or any suspected breach of research integrity concerning an ERC applicant or project. Cases of scientific misconduct may include for instance the use and the publicity of falsified data, incorrect attribution of work or plagiarism of other applicants' proposals. The strategy will allow the ERC to take the appropriate follow-up actions and maintain scientific and ethical standards at all stages of ERC competitions. The ERC strategy is fundamentally based on the presumption that the host institutions of the ERC applicants and grant holders have the primary responsibility for the detection of scientific misconduct and for the investigation, and adjudication of any breaches of research integrity that may arise. Therefore the ERC recommends that all actual or potential host institutions will have structures in place to uphold scientific integrity, to deal with all cases of scientific misconduct that may come to the attention of the ERC, and to report to the ERC on what actions they have taken to deal with any relevant scientific misconduct issues.

*Source: November 2012*

*Full document available at:*

[http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC\\_Scientific\\_misconduct\\_strategy.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_Scientific_misconduct_strategy.pdf)

### **1.33 Joint funding of European-African research projects agreed**

The first initiative of European and African countries to jointly fund collaborative research projects has been agreed during the visit of the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, to Cape Town. The calls, to be launched in January 2013 with a budget of €11 million, will offer research funding in areas such as agriculture, health, climate change and energy, grouped under three headings: "Renewable Energy", "Interfacing Challenges" and "Idea driven research". Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "Today's agreement is truly historic. It is the first time that European and African countries have jointly established a research agenda that will be funded by both sides. This can serve as a model for future cooperation between our two continents and encourage other countries to embrace this new form of partnership." The agreement concerns ministries and public institutions from 15 countries: Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland and Turkey. Together they have agreed to fund research for at least € 11 million, with the five African states contributing nearly €4 million.

*Source: November 2012*

*Full article available at: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-12-1176\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1176_en.htm?locale=en)*

### **1.34 A 50% increase in applications for the European Research Council's Starting Grants**

A total of 3329 proposals were submitted for the European Research Council's (ERC) sixth Starting Grant competition. This is an over 50% increase in demand compared to the corresponding group in last year's Starting Grant call (2169 proposals). 'ERC Starting Grants' are intended for early-career researchers, with 2-7 years of experience after the PhD and are worth up to €2 Million Euros for five years.

ERC President Professor Helga Nowotny said: "*For the third successive year, we see a tremendous increase in demand for ERC Starting Grants. This is very telling. With the current decrease in research funding in Europe, we risk ignoring the wealth of young top talent that Europe has instead of cultivating it. It is more imperative than ever to invest in Europe's future - bright young people.*" The applications are



distributed among three ERC domains: Physical Sciences and Engineering (45%), Life Sciences (32%) and Social Sciences and Humanities (23%).

*Source: November 2012*

*Full article available at: <http://erc.europa.eu/>*

### **1.35 Europe's Queen of computers**

The new high performance Computer JUQUEEN at Forschungszentrum Juelich in Germany has reached the new top position as Europe's fastest supercomputer and 5th fastest in the world. It is the first supercomputer in Europe to reach a computing performance of 5 Petaflop/s – equating to 5 quadrillion operations per second. With 393,216 compute cores, the new system reaches a peak performance of 5.033 Petaflop/s, which equates to approximately 100,000 PCs based on a current performance level. Early 2013, a further extension is planned from today's 24 racks up to 28 racks. JUQUEEN is an IBM BlueGene/Q system based on the IBM POWER architecture.

"JUQUEEN is targeted to tackle comprehensive and complex scientific questions, called Grand Challenges", explains Prof. Thomas Lippert, Director of the Juelich Supercomputing Center. The system can be used especially for compute intensive, highly scalable applications which can run in parallel on a very high number of compute cores. "Projects from various scientific areas can profit from the new raised performance, e.g. in the areas of neuroscience, computational biology or energy and climate research. It enables complicated calculations in quantum physics, which were not possible before", adds Prof. Lippert.

JUQUEEN was equally financed by German Federal and State funds. The new system will be accessible to researchers in Germany and the whole of Europe. Two thirds of the computing time will be given to researchers via two supercomputing cooperation: the Gauss Centre for Supercomputing (GCS), a cooperation of the three German national High Performance Compute Centers in Juelich, Garching und Stuttgart, and the European Research Infrastructure PRACE. The third part will be accessible to users of Forschungszentrum Juelich and the Juelich-Aachen Research Alliance (JARA).

*Source: November 2012*

*Full article available at: <http://www.fz-juelich.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/UK/EN/2012/12-11-12juqueen.html>*

### **1.36 New data on international student enrollment and mobility**

The Institute of International Education released its 2012 "Open Doors report on International Educational Exchange" on November 12. Open Doors is a comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States, and U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities. In the 2010/11 academic year, 273,996 American students studied abroad for academic credit, an increase of one percent—an all-time high. U.S. students studying abroad increased in 17 of the top 25 destination countries. Europe is hosting about 54% of US students worldwide and the top five destinations are United Kingdom (12.1%), Italy (11.1%), Spain (9.5%) and France (6.2%), followed by China (5.3%). There were increases in the number of students from 12 of the top 25 places of origin, including Brazil, China, France, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, and Vietnam. At the same time, numbers declined from several major sending countries, including India (down four percent), South Korea, (down one percent), and Japan (down six percent). The factors driving these declines may include global and home country economic factors, growing higher education opportunities at home, and stronger employment opportunities at home after graduation. Students from European countries account for about 11% of international students in the U.S. The continued growth in international students coming to the U.S. for higher education has a significant positive economic impact on the United States. International students contribute more than \$22.7 billion to the U.S. economy, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Open Doors 2012 reports that more than 70 percent of all international students receive the majority of their funds from sources outside of the United States, including personal and family sources as well as assistance from their home country governments or universities.

Source: November 2012

More information available at: <http://www.iie.org/Who-We-Are/News-and-Events/Press-Center/Press-Releases/2012/11-13-2012-Open-Doors-International-Students>

### **1.37 Europeans aim to provide better access to biodiversity data**

The Nordic states have entered into an agreement to drive and establish a Nordic E-Science for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research infrastructure. Called LifeWatch, this European initiative emerged under the framework of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). LifeWatch seeks to provide improved access to biodiversity data in favour of environmental research.

Source: December 2012

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=35290](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=35290)

### **1.38 Ex-post research evaluation: practices and recommendations by European Funding Organizations**

The European Science Foundation (ESF) has published a study entitled "*Evaluation in Research and Research Funding Organisations: European Practices*" which involved over thirty funding organizations. The document includes a set of recommendations for ensuring the usefulness of evaluation activities for both the research funders and the scientific community. Amongst the proposed measures is the use of existing information and data (e.g. from the proposal processing and final reports but also external sources like publication databases etc.) in order to limit the number of surveys and avoid duplication of efforts. While recognizing the need for flexibility due to different national monitoring systems and government requirements, the group recommends the use of common classification systems and supports the development of standards for the quality of data as to simplify the comparison and exchange of information between different funders and countries.

Source: December 2012

More information available at: <http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora/evaluation-of-publicly-funded-research.html>

### **1.39 Indicators of internationalization: a new set of criteria for research funders and performers**

A report on "*Indicators of Internationalisation for Research Institutions: a new approach*" published by the European Science Foundation recommends the use of eight indicators for research funding and nine for research performing organizations to assess the extent and impact of their international activities. The implementation concerns national research funding and performing organizations as well as international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Statistics Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) etc, traditionally working on the collection and harmonization of data.

Source: December 2012

More information available at: <http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora/evaluation-indicators-of-internationalisation.html>

### **1.40 Enabling, observing, guiding and globalizing research careers**

Internationalization of research careers is the subject of a report "*Developing Research Careers In and Beyond Europe: Enabling – Observing – Guiding and Going Global*" published by the European Science Foundation and the European Alliance on Research Career Development (EARCD). The four recommended measures are: the creation of the European Researchers' Professional Development Framework for improving researchers' skills; the launching of an International Platform for Research Career Tracking and Monitoring; the development and acknowledgement of new concepts of researchers' mobility; and the creation of a Global Forum for Research Career Development in partnership with G20 and other international partners.

Source: December 2012

More information available at: <http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora/european-alliance-on-research-careers-development.html>

#### **1.41 Despite crisis, top EU firms continue to invest in innovation**

Despite the continuing economic and financial crisis, major EU-based firms continue to rely on R&D for their competitive edge. They increased R&D investment by 8.9% in 2011, up from 6.1% in 2010. The increase nearly matches US firms (9%), beats the global average (7.6%) and is far ahead of Japanese companies (1.7%). R&D-intensive sectors tended to show above average employment growth. These are key findings of the European Commission's 2012 "EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard" of the top 1500 global R&D investors. The global top 50 includes 15 EU companies, 18 US firms and 12 from Japan. Japanese car manufacturer Toyota tops the ranking, with Volkswagen the top EU company in third place with €7.2 (\$9.3) billion invested). Recently released data shows that combined EU public and private research spending increased to 2.03% of GDP in 2011, from 2.01% in 2010. This was mainly due to increased private sector spending. Total investment by companies in the scoreboard shows that the US is still ahead of the EU, explained by the higher number of high-tech firms in the US (€178.4 (\$231.3) billion versus €144.6 (\$187.5) billion).

*Source: December 2012*

*More information available at: [http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/research/scoreboard\\_2012.htm](http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/research/scoreboard_2012.htm)*

#### **1.42 Statistics on transnationally coordinated research in Europe**

The third round of data collection on 'national public funding to transnationally coordinated research' was conducted in 2012 by national statistical institutes under the guidance of Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

This indicator used in European Union (EU) science and technology statistics, measures the government budget appropriations or outlays for research and development (GBAORD) directed towards three categories of research and development (R & D) performers and programs: the transnational public R&D performers located in Europe (e.g. the European Organization for Nuclear Research - CERN); the Europe-wide transnational public R&D programs (e.g. the European Research Area Networks - ERA-NETs); and bilateral or multilateral public R & D programs jointly undertaken by the governments of at least two countries. On average, about 3.8 % of EU Member States' R&D budget was directed to 'transnationally coordinated research' in 2010.

*Source: December 2012*

*Full article available at:*

*[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/R\\_%26\\_D\\_budget\\_statistics\\_-\\_transnationally\\_coordinated\\_research](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/R_%26_D_budget_statistics_-_transnationally_coordinated_research)*

## **2 Europe-Japan**

### **2.1 EUJO-LIMMS: Launch of the First International Laboratory of the European Commission in Japan**

The first international laboratory of the European Commission in Japan was launched on February 2, 2012 in Paris. It is based on the LIMMS (Laboratory for Integrated Micro Mechatronic Systems), an international joint unit between CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research, France) and the University of Tokyo in the fields of micro and nano-technologies applied to engineering and biology. The project EUJO-LIMMS now includes three additional European partners: École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL, Switzerland), Institut für Mikrosystemtechnik (IMTEK, Freiburg, Germany) and the Technical Research Center (VTT) of Finland. EUJO-LIMMS will significantly enhance collaboration and research between Europe and Japan to meet new scientific challenges in engineering and biotechnology.

As part of its international policy, the European Commission launched a call for proposals under the INCO-Lab program to establish European laboratories in China, India, Russia, Brazil, Japan and the United States. To apply, an institution of a EU member state has to have a laboratory located in one of these countries and propose a European expansion. This is the case of the CNRS which since 1995 cooperates with the University of Tokyo (UT) as part of an international joint unit - the LIMMS (Laboratory

for Integrated Micro Mechatronic Systems) located in Tokyo. Within the Institute of Industrial Science (IIS) at the University of Tokyo, LIMMS hosts French and Japanese researchers who develop their research jointly exploiting the applications of advanced micro and nanotechnologies to engineering and biology. Since its creation, LIMMS has already welcomed more than a hundred scientists. During the past four years, more than 200 publications have been produced by this laboratory as well as five international patents.

With this experience, the CNRS and the University of Tokyo have therefore responded to the call for proposals by offering the inclusion in LIMMS of EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland), the IMTEK (Freiburg, Germany) and VTT (Finland), three institutions with which the CNRS and the University of Tokyo were in contact through the international research network NAMIS.

The proposal EUJO-LIMMS (Europe-Japan Opening of LIMMS) was ranked first for Japan and one of the best for all countries involved. With this project, the LIMMS/CNRS-IIS and its extension EUJO-LIMMS becomes the first international laboratory of the European Commission in Japan.

The scientific program (1) of EUJO-LIMMS aims to push the frontiers of research in micro and nano-systems by capitalizing on the complementary expertise of the University of Tokyo, the CNRS, and the three new European partners. For a period of four years, visiting investigators will develop innovative miniature devices targeting new applications in flexible electronics, optics, and biomolecular and cellular engineering.

A call to recruit a fourth partner is expected after two years. Based solely on criteria of scientific excellence, the call will be open to all the research teams of the member states. Thus, twenty European researchers are already expected. In addition to its research activity, EUJO-LIMMS will consider the extension of the contractual framework of LIMMS to include European cooperation. This study will build on existing agreements between the CNRS and the University of Tokyo and on exchanges within the consortium.

The program EUJO-LIMMS implies a significant strengthening of scientific relations between Europe and Japan. The theme of the research lends itself perfectly, as it relates to micro and nano-systems, a growing field - where Japan is undoubtedly a world leader - and very promising in terms of applications.

Notes: (1) EUJO-LIMMS focuses on new areas opened up by micro-and nano-technologies. The research is highly exploratory and involves advanced micro- and nano-electromechanical systems (integration of sensors, actuators and electronics in the functional microsystems), nanotechnology and BioMEMS (labs-on-a-chip and molecular and cellular biotechnologies). Research is conducted through both thematic and multidisciplinary efforts.

*Source: February 2012*

<http://www2.cnrs.fr/presse/communique/2447.htm>

## **3 International**

### **3.1 Colleges' Efforts to Internationalize Slip in Some Areas (International)**

American colleges say they are more supportive than ever of international education, but in many cases their efforts to internationalize may fall short, a [new report](#) from the American Council on Education suggests.

Half of all colleges surveyed said they include international or global education in their institutional mission statements, while a like number reported internationalization among their top five strategic priorities. A majority said internationalization efforts on their campuses had accelerated in recent years.

*Source: July 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://chronicle.com/article/Colleges-Efforts-to-Globalize/132661/?cid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/Colleges-Efforts-to-Globalize/132661/?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

### 3.2 Trends in International Mobility of Students: a Wake-Up Call for the U.S.?

This month the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released its annual statistical educational report, "Education at a Glance 2012: OECD Indicators." It analyzes educational performance in the 34 market economies belonging to the OECD and has gradually included comparable data from nonmember countries like Brazil and Russia. In recent years, the OECD's analysis has included a section presenting trends in international enrollment in higher education, which, in a way, has become the most comprehensive data analysis of its kind in the world.

Statistics show that the United States is still the largest recipient of worldwide international students but its share has been shrinking. While in 2000, the United States attracted 23 percent of students worldwide, 10 years later the number was reduced to 16.6 percent.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at: [http://chronicle.com/blogs/worldwise/education-at-a-glance-2012/30454?cid=pm&utm\\_source=pm&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/worldwise/education-at-a-glance-2012/30454?cid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en)*

## 4 Austria

### 4.1 IST Austria, value for Austria

Opened in June 2009, the Institute of Science and Technology Austria is now growing. As an extremely positive experience in general, the institute has gone in just a little over two years from a project rated as high-risk/high-reward to one with a high probability for success.

*A first assessment* - In 2011, the number of IST employees has doubled to almost 200 people, including some 100 scientists from 35 countries. The institute has now 22 professors with their research groups. The two most recent appointments were made in the neurosciences, with the Swiss neurobiologist Simon Hippenmeyer, who will join the institute in the summer of 2012 from Stanford University, and the Japanese physician Ryuichi Shigemoto, who will come in early 2013 from the National Institute for Physiological Science in Okazaki. The field of Neuroscience is exploding worldwide and was under-represented in Austria, but it is now an important activity at the IST. Other areas in which the Institute is active are, for now, cell biology, evolutionary biology and computer science. A sign of the Institute's good progress is that at least eight professors working at the IST have received prestigious and generous grants from the ERC (European Research Council) - making it the institute with the highest ratio of ERC-funded researchers in the world. Doctoral programs have also started. Twenty-five students were accepted out of 650 applicants in 2011 and began a doctoral program expected to last 4-5 years. The first year is dedicated to courses in mathematics, neuroscience, computer science, biology and science projects; graduate students choose their specialty afterwards.

*Some perspectives* - The second research building, under construction at Klosterneuburg near Vienna, will accommodate a dozen research groups. The construction of a third building has already been planned for 2015 due to expected growth of the institute's activities with an expansion of the research areas in physics, chemistry and material sciences.

*Sources: January 2012*

*Electronic Bulletin, December 19, 2011*

*[www.ist.ac.at](http://www.ist.ac.at)*

### 4.2 2012 Long Night of Research in Austria

The largest annual Austrian event to promote research and development will take place on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> - "the 2012 Long Night of Research", bringing together research institutions from all over the country, from Lake Constance to Lake Fertő. All the Austrian states but Tyrol will hold their own events on Saturday, April 28. This large event, established in 2005, is designed on a cross-regional scale by the Austrian Research Council (Forschungsrat) and supported by the Ministry of Economy (BMWFJ) and the Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF). Current figures show 24 participating regions, 187 sites, 1156 booths and there is room for late participants.



The participating organizations represent the diversity of Austrian research, ranging from small enterprises to industry and research infrastructure managers, including scientific units at universities, the Austrian Academy of Sciences and research institutions outside universities.

According to Economy Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner, the Night of Research emphasizes the importance of innovation and invention. The products and services derived from these are indeed fundamental to the consolidation of Austrian companies in the global market, job creation and ultimately the country's well-being. For his part, Minister of Science and Research, Karlheinz Töchterle, emphasizes the harmony between education and entertainment made possible by this event where research becomes adventure, allowing young and senior people to gather around the surprising, exciting and diverse world of knowledge.



The President of the Council for Research and Technology Development, Dr. Hannes Androsch is pleased about the enthusiasm and the large number of researchers willing to convey to the people the result of their work. Such events about Austrian research activities also aim to reduce the brain drain.

Many topics will be discussed: energy, medicine and health sciences, art and culture and media, agriculture, forestry, veterinary medicine, natural sciences, social sciences, economics. Some companies will present their own work.

Schedules for the event, completely free, vary from one region to another; generally, the opening will be between 4:00 and 5:00 pm and the closing between 11:00 pm and 12:00 pm.

*The official web site:* <http://www.lnf2012.at/>

*Sources:* May 2012

- *Electronic Bulletin*, April 16, 2012

- "Auch 2007 keine 'Lange Nacht der Forschung'" - *science.ORF.at/APA* – March 21, 2007 - <http://science1.orf.at/science/news/147665>

- *Web site of the Council for Research and Development of Technology*, March 20, 2012: <http://www.rat-fte.at>

- "Lange Nacht der Forschung" in Kooperation mit ORF - *science.ORF.at* – September 14, 2005 - <http://science1.orf.at/science/news/140440>

- "Lange Nacht der Forschung 2012 am 27. April - Website zur LNF2012 online! - Selina Morrison" – February 17, 2012 - <http://redirectix.bulletins-electroniques.com/gtrZo>

### **4.3 OeAW impulse programme: New Frontiers Groups (NFGs) – Austria**

In establishing the New Frontiers Groups programme, the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) intends to develop a flexible structure with which it can respond rapidly to cutting-edge developments in science and research, which are largely driven by young researchers.

The NFG programme aims at investigator-driven innovative research in order to promote promising academic careers and to further strengthen the Academy's research portfolio.

The OeAW invites applications from highly talented scientists and scholars at early stages of their careers to establish a New Frontiers Group under the auspices of the OeAW.

*Sources:* May 2012

*Full article available at:*

[http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/aktuelles\\_detail.asp?N\\_ID=485](http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/aktuelles_detail.asp?N_ID=485)

## **5 Baltics**

### **5.1 Establishment of an Institute for Baltic Research and Innovative Technology**

The main scientific research institutions in the Baltic countries, namely the University of Latvia [1], Riga Technical University [2], the Institute of Organic Synthesis of Latvia [3], the Latvian Center for Biomedical Study and Research [4], Vilnius University [5], the Technical University of Lithuania [6] (in Vilnius and Kaunas), Tartu University [7] and the Technical University of Tallinn [8] (the list is not exhaustive), created an Institute for Baltic Innovative Research and Technology.

This Institute is a form of cooperation between the universities and the institutes of scientific research and development in the Baltic region. The purpose of the new Institute is to coordinate research in the Baltic region and also to enable students to acquire not only theoretical but also practical scientific knowledge. Its ultimate goal is to improve the competitiveness of the Baltic countries and, as a result, the EU's innovation in global markets.

The project of the University of Latvia is to further develop the Academic Center of Sciences Tornakalns [9] by creating a new science park using the center at Jurmala (which historically housed the nuclear reactor) and in partnership with the Institute of the Physics of Solids of Latvia [10] and the Center for Nanotechnology and Materials Science. A review of potential areas of high scientific excellence has been developed: biomedical and pharmaceutical, new materials and nanotechnology, and information and communication technologies. These themes will be the research priorities of the future institute.

The project should be funded by the European Union within the next programming period (2014-2020), within the scheme of funds for science, innovation and technology transfer

Source: April 2012

- *Electronic Bulletin*, April 3, 2012

- [1] University of Latvia: <http://www.lu.lv>

- [2] Riga Technical University: <http://www.rtu.lv>

- [3] Institute of Organic Synthesis of Latvia: <http://www.osi.lv>

- [4] Latvian Center for Study and Biomedical Research : <http://bmc.biomed.lu.lv>

- [5] Vilnius University: <http://www.vu.lt/en>

- [6] Technical University of Lithuania: <http://en.ktu.lt>

- [7] Tartu University: <http://www.ut.ee/en>

- [8] Technical University of Tallinn: <http://www.ttu.ee/en>

- [9] Academic Center of Sciences Tornakalns : <http://www.lu.lv/eng/news/t/5921>

- [10] Institute of Physics of the Solids of Latvia: <http://www.cfi.lu.lv/eng/>

## 6 Bulgaria

### 6.1 ERC welcomes new Bulgarian initiative to support top scientists

Over 150 participants attended an information event on the European Research Council's funding opportunities in Sofia (Bulgaria), held in parallel with the 35th Plenary Session of the ERC's Scientific Council (see [highlight](#) of 26 April 2012). This event is in line with ERC's efforts to increase the awareness of its funding opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe.

During the information event, Bulgarian Minister of Education, Research and Youth, Prof. Sergei Ignatov announced that: *"Bulgaria is launching a new initiative to financially support projects, submitted by researchers in Bulgaria, which are on the ERC's reserve lists but that were not funded for budgetary reasons"*. ERC President Prof. Helga Nowotny welcomed the Bulgarian initiative which adds to the existing schemes to fund ERC runners-up in a number of other EU countries. She said that *"It is of great concern to the ERC that the participation rate is low in Bulgaria, and more generally in this part of Europe"* and reaffirmed the fact that *"talent exist everywhere"*.

The ERC hopes to see an increase in applications from top talent in Central and Eastern Europe. To date, similar events have been organized in Poland, Hungary, Latvia and Romania. During a joint press conference held on 26 April, Prof. Ignatov also confirmed that Bulgaria will support the proposal of the European Commission to boost the future budget for research - including the increase of the ERC's budget by 77% in the new European research framework programme "Horizon 2020" programme.



27 April 2012

Sources: May 2012

For more information, click on: <http://erc.europa.eu>

Press contacts:

Madeleine DRIELSMA

Mobile: +32 498 98 43 97

[ERC-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-press@ec.europa.eu)

Maud SCELO

Phone: +32 2 298 15 21

[ERC-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-press@ec.europa.eu)

Article available at:

[http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press\\_release/files/Sofia\\_new\\_Bulgarian\\_initiative.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press_release/files/Sofia_new_Bulgarian_initiative.pdf)

## **6.2 International Conference on “Improving the quality of work in Europe” - Bulgaria**

On 18 and 19 October this year Sofia will host an international conference “Improving the quality of labor in Europe.”

The conference is organized by the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at BAS, within a comparative European project "Quality of life and work in the new workplaces - WALQING" (<http://www.walqing.eu/>), funded under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission.

The deadline for submission of abstracts in English (500 words) is 15 June, 2012.

They should be sent to Darina Peycheva at: [dpeicheva@gmail.com](mailto:dpeicheva@gmail.com)

Authors of approved abstracts will be informed by 10 July, 2012.

The full texts in English or Bulgarian are expected before the 15th September 2012.

The main objective of the project WALQING is to increase the awareness and knowledge of researchers, interested parties, employers and trade unions, politicians on the problems of quality of work and life in the new workplaces.

We expect original contributions from academics and interested parties (employers, unions, government, NGOs, etc.) within the following five main areas:

Changes and impacts in the legislation, employment law, implications of the policies;

What do employers do to improve the quality of work: employers' initiatives at company and sector level?

What do unions do: addressing and measuring quality of work? A comparative analysis.

Good practices at company level and conditions of transfer;

Workers and quality of work: challenges, gains and losses.

Sources: May 2012

Additional information available at:

<http://www.bas.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0288&n=000386&q=>

## **6.3 Funding protest hits Bulgarian research agency**

On November 22, a detailed front-page report in the national newspaper SEGA presented a hair-raising list of allegations, ranging from large funding allocations to companies and foundations with no experience in scientific research, to alleged conflicts of interest involving geologist Rangel Gjurov, who chairs the executive board of the Ministry of Education and Science's Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF). A growing number of scientists are now alleging that the funding agency is funnelling research cash towards bad science, and unfairly favouring those with close ties to the agency. This week, more than 400 researchers sent a petition to the prime minister and key science policy-makers, demanding a reassessment of the competition. The protest comes at a time when support for science is at a low ebb. Since 2009, university budgets have fallen by more than 20% and the budget for the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, which runs 41 research institutes in the country, has dropped by more than 40%.

Source: December 2012

<http://www.nature.com/news/funding-protest-hits-bulgarian-research-agency-1.11902>

## 7 Croatia

### 7.1 Croatian science faces crisis

Researchers call for urgent reforms to promote the country's scientific excellence.

Croatia's science-funding system is in a "critical" situation, according to some of its researchers. "With hindsight, I don't know that I would have returned," says Marina Šantić, a microbiologist at the University of Rijeka, Croatia, who moved back to her home country after four years of postdoctoral research at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Despite leading an expanding and successful research group and co-authoring her institution's first *Science* paper only a few months ago, Šantić has considered quitting research. On her return to Croatia as an associate professor, she discovered that she was earning less in the same post than other researchers who had stayed, skipped the postdoc, and seemed to be less productive.

Source: March 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.nature.com/news/croatian-science-faces-crisis-1.10129>

## 8 Denmark

### 8.1 Agreement Reached in Danish Parliament on Increased Funding for Research in 2012

The Danish Parliament reached an agreement for an increase of roughly 1 billion Danish Kroner (\$175 million) for research in 2012 [1]. The government approved the agreement between Venstre (the Liberal party), the Danish People's Party, the Enhedslisten (Red-Green Alliance), the Liberal Alliance and the Conservative People's Party for the increased funding for 2012. Universities are receiving an increase of 229 million Kroner (\$40 million). This will bring the total budget for university research to 8.25 billion Kroner (\$1.43 billion).

The Parliament also decided to grant an increase of 113 million Kroner (\$19.52 million) to the Danish Council for Independent Research (DFF), which supports investigator-driven research. DFF can therefore maintain the level of funding received last year. These funds will be used for programs such as Sapere Aude, which supports the most talented researchers.

Investments for 2012 will focus primarily on three strategic research areas: energy, environment and food research, which will receive increases of 120, 40 and 40 million Kroner respectively (\$21, \$7 and \$7 million). An additional 90 million Kroner (\$15.75 million) was also allocated for innovation. The program known as "Knowledge Pilot" [2], as well as Industrial PhD programs where a student is placed in a company while conducting his/her PhD research, will be granted an increase of 15 million Kroner (\$2.6 million). These funds will provide the opportunity for young researchers to integrate in and bring their know-how to small and medium-sized Danish enterprises.

The Innovation Incubator scheme, which helps entrepreneurs and innovative businesses in their early stages of development, will receive an additional 25 million Kroner (\$4.42 million). GTS institutes [3] will be allocated an additional 10 million Kroner (\$1.69 million) for research on green building with a focus on solar energy.

Finally, there will be an additional DKK 28 million (\$5.2 million) allocated to education research. The funding will go to practice-oriented PhD scholars who will research teaching processes.

Of the additional 986 million Kroner (\$172.48 million) that will be allocated to research and innovation, 686 million Kroner (\$120 million) come from reserve funds for research. The other 300 million Kroner (\$52.48 million) come from the cancellation of certain grants for analysis of the education field as well as the closure of the Danish Board of Technology.

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[1] The budget for research in Denmark in 2011 amounted to \$1.85 billion.

[2] Knowledge Pilot Program (in Danish: Videnpilotordningen) aims to improve the dissemination of knowledge to the economic sphere by granting employment of graduates in small and medium enterprises that do not normally use the potential of these people.

[3] The GTS institutes are consulting firms that develop and sell technology services to private companies and public authorities.

*Sources: January 2012*

*Electronic Bulletin January 23, 2012*

*Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Research - <http://en.fivu.dk>*

## **8.2 Excellence 2012 Conference in Denmark**

The Excellence 2012 Conference will be held in Aarhus University (Denmark) from April 18-20, 2012. The President of the European Research Council (ERC), Prof. H. Nowotny, and the Danish Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education, M. Ostergaard, as well as the Rector of Aarhus University, Prof. L.B. Holm-Nielsen, will present the future Research and Innovation Framework Programme of the European Union (EU), Horizon 2020, in support of a fertile environment for excellence in research, education and innovation. The Conference is one of the major research events organized by the current Danish Presidency of the EU. The aim is for policy makers, scientists and university representatives to discuss ways in which Europe can stimulate excellent research that can efficiently translate into innovative solutions.

*Sources: May 2012*

*Full program is available at:*

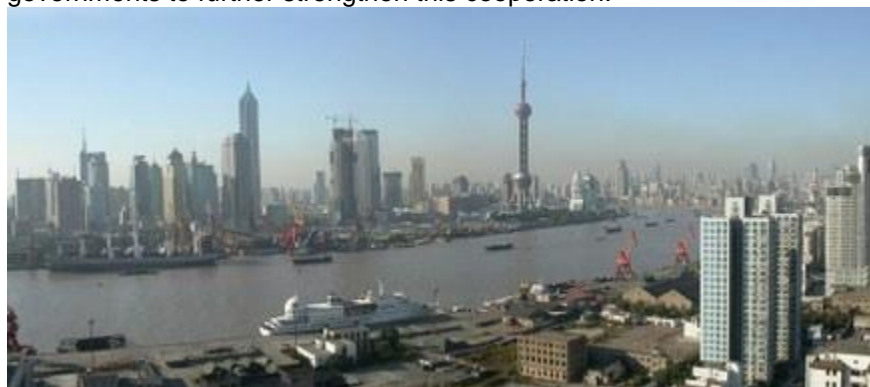
*<http://www.excellence2012.dk/programme/>*

*ERC article is available at:*

*[http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press\\_release/files/Highlight\\_Excellence\\_2012\\_DK.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press_release/files/Highlight_Excellence_2012_DK.pdf)*

## **8.3 China and Denmark – close partners in the knowledge area**

China is a strategic partner for Denmark, when it comes to science, technology and innovation. During the last couple of years a number of initiatives have cemented the common commitment from both governments to further strengthen this cooperation.



*Sources: May 2012*

*Full article available at:*

*<http://en.fi.dk/international/global-cooperation/denmark-china>*

## 9 Finland

### 9.1 Tekes-Finland increased its funding for young, innovative growth companies

In accordance with its new strategy, Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, increased its funding for young, innovative growth companies. The growth rates and successfulness of these businesses in various comparisons show that Tekes has been able to choose the right businesses and projects to be funded among the wide selection on offer.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.tekes.fi/en/community/News/482/News/1344?name=Tekes+increased+its+funding+for+young+%2C+innovative+growth+companies>

*TEKES (The Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation):*

<http://www.tekes.fi/en/community/Home/351/Home/473>

### 9.2 On internationalization at universities - a case in Finland

*The following is a guest post by **Markus Laitinen**, head of international affairs at the University of Helsinki.*

Imagine a university without an international office, internationalization strategy or a committee for internationalization; not really international, right? Not necessarily. For the past eight years the University of Helsinki has had no single office or entity bear the responsibility for internationalization. Today, this approach is sometimes called “mainstreamed” or “deep” internationalization, but I actually prefer “embedded.” From my perspective, sharing the responsibility for internationalization—an issue central to many universities worldwide—throughout a university, rather than charging it to a select few administrators, is the right path to take.

*Source: April 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://chronicle.com/blogs/worldwise/the-end-of-the-international-office/29312?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/worldwise/the-end-of-the-international-office/29312?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

## 10 France

### 10.1 Pascale Briand, new Executive Director of the French ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche)



Pascale Briand, currently Director General for Food at the French Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, previously Director General of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), research director at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), delegate to the Interministerial Cancer Prevention Mission and deputy director of the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) at rue d'Ulm, is appointed Director General of the French National Research Agency (ANR). She succeeds Jacqueline Lecourtier, whose term of office will run out on 1 February 2012

With the creation of ANR, France has adopted in 2006 the necessary instruments to promote a research effort based on excellence as recognized by international peers, also enhancing certain subjects which are particularly crucial for the future of the country while allowing for the emergence of new concepts and maintaining a direct connection with the research community.

The ANR was able to quickly find its place not only in France but also in European and international scientific communities, and among the agencies funding research projects as well. With its expertise and legitimacy, the ANR has been given €18.9 billion so far for higher education and research. The new director of ANR will have to consolidate the excellent achievements of the institution in the French research landscape and address new challenges as well, including:

- Consolidate in a sustainable way all the activities of the Agency, its goals, and its commitments in an arrangement that may give rise to multi-annual programming and in a new context for the research landscape (national strategy for research and innovation, creating alliances for research, university autonomy);
- Accelerate the implementation of investments for the future: beyond the completion of the second wave of calls for proposals, the new director will have to accelerate the processes of awarding funds, one of Minister for Education and Research Laurent Wauquiez' priorities since his arrival at the Ministry last July 2011;
- Improve the financing of projects and put in place the best global standards: this involves a simplification plan which aims to give researchers time to formulate proposals for joint funding between laboratories and institutions.

*Source: February 2012*

*ANR – <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr>*

## **10.2 ANR Self-Evaluation**

Like research performing institutions in France (research institutes, laboratories, universities ...), the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) was assessed by AERES (Agence de l'Evaluation de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur) in January 2012. This evaluation, conducted by a panel of twenty experts - 90% of which were from countries other than France, will contribute to the development of the future objectives of ANR. The assessment comes at an important stage in the life of the agency, six years after its creation and after its integration in the French system of research and innovation. To develop its self-evaluation report for the period 2005-2011 the ANR, at the request of the AERES, addressed its processes (programming, project selection and monitoring, assessment of programs) and governance. A comparison with national research funding agencies in other countries was also conducted. The ANR report also addresses the context under which ANR was created, its mission, key activities indicators and development of future plans. The evolution of ANR programs since the creation of the agency is also described in such report.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full report available at:*

*<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/magazine/actualites/detail/evaluation-de-l-anr-par-l-aeres-le-rapport-d-auto-evaluation>*

*Additional information available at:*

*AERES – Agence d'Evaluation de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur – Agency for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education*

*<http://www.aeres-evaluation.fr>*

## **10.3 PROGRAMMING 2013 - ANR Opens a "Suggestion Box" to Prepare Future Calls for Projects**

The general programming framework of the French ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) is based on a tri-annual budget scheme (2011-13). Most of the agency's thematic programs include several consecutive calls for projects (usually two or three). An ANR document describing the scope of 2012 programs is available at ([http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/2011/Programmation-ANR-2012.pdf](http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/2011/Programmation-ANR-2012.pdf) ). ANR's programming exercise is conducted annually. It is based on an extensive consultation process with various stakeholders in the French system of research and innovation (government, research alliances,

universities, businesses, academies, learned societies, associations, etc.). ANR's programming is also discussed by field-related scientific committees within the context of original and emerging ideas and concepts. The consultation process is also open to suggestions from scientists from all backgrounds. ANR encourages investigators to directly suggest emerging research areas through its 'suggestion box', [programmation2013@nullagence-recherche.fr](mailto:programmation2013@nullagence-recherche.fr), by March 15, 2012.

*Source: Paris, January 30, 2012*

<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr>

#### 10.4 Georgia Tech Participates in French Parliamentary Discussions

*Monday 02/13/2012*

On February 7, 2012, Mr. Louis Giscard d'Estaing, Vice-President of the French Congress and President of the Group for Franco-American Friendship in Parliament, organized a high profile meeting, with elected officials and experts on the theme: "How to reinforce educational and university cooperation?". Georgia Tech Lorraine (GTL) was present in many discussions, including the address given by his Excellency Charles Rivkin, US ambassador to France. Dr. Steve McLaughlin (Vice Provost International Initiatives) expanded during a panel discussion on the role of GTL; Dr. Yves Berthelot (President, GTL), and Dr. Abdallah Ougazzaden (Director GTL) were also in attendance. The event took place at the historical "Assemblée Nationale" of France.

*Source: February 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.georgiatech-metz.fr/node/921>

*Note: Established as Georgia Institute of Technology's first international campus in 1990 in Metz, France, Georgia Tech-Lorraine is: A highly innovative institution offering year-round undergraduate, masters and PhD program; Home to a strong sponsored research program through the [Unité Mixte Internationale \(UMI\)](#), an international joint laboratory between Georgia Tech and the French [Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique \(CNRS\)](#).*

*Fully integrated into French and American structures: an affiliate of the Georgia Institute of Technology incorporated under French Law. Situated in the heart of Europe in eastern France along the Luxembourg and German borders, and less than 90 minutes by train from Paris. Georgia Tech-Lorraine fosters the flow of new ideas, creates new opportunities, and nurtures the development of global leadership and innovative thinking in its students. Over 2000 undergraduate, masters and doctoral students (CS, ECE, and ME) have spent a semester or more on the Metz campus, enriching their education with a global perspective.*

#### 10.5 Mathematics: Creating an Indo-French International Joint Unit

On January 12, in New Delhi, India, an agreement establishing the International Joint Unit (UMI) IFCAM (Indo-French Center for Applied Mathematics) was signed. Based at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, IFCAM is created by the Ministry of Science and Technology of India and several French partners: CNRS (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique), Ecole Polytechnique, ENS (Ecole Normale Supérieure), INRIA (Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique), University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and the University of Toulouse III-Paul Sabatier. The objective of this new CNRS Joint International Unit is to offer to mathematicians from both countries a platform to collaborate on projects involving partial differential equations, control theory, scientific computing, statistical physics, dynamical systems, biomathematics, and modeling of large networks. The UMI IFCAM will be a platform for collaborations extended to all over India, including the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.

*Source: March 2012*

*CNRS – Julien Guillaume - email: [julien.guillaume@CNRS-dir.fr](mailto:julien.guillaume@CNRS-dir.fr)*

#### 10.6 Financing Franco-Indian Projects

The ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche, France) and the Indian Department for Science and Technology signed a partnership agreement.

On March 7, 2012 in Delhi, India, the ANR agreed on a partnership with the Indian Department for Science and Technology (DST) allowing financing of French / Indian projects. The agreement will focus



on identifying annually common research fields in France and India. ANR and DST will co-finance projects that have been identified after selection. Application submission in France will follow the usual ANR procedure under the “White Program for International Projects” (ANR ‘White Program’ is equivalent to unsolicited proposals at NSF). In India, the Franco-Indian Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) will be in charge of the Indian application submitted. The first call for proposals will focus on two themes: infectious diseases and engineering. The deadline is November 2012 for financing starting in 2013.

Contact ANR – Nakita Vodjdani, International Relations Responsible [www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr](http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr)  
Contact CEFIPRA – A. Amusdeswari, Director [www.cefipra.org](http://www.cefipra.org)

Source: April 2012

<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/magazine/actualites/detail/financement-de-projets-franco-indiens-lanr-et-le-departement-de-la-science-et-de-la-technologie-en-inde-signent-un-accord-de-partenariat>

### **10.7 ParisTech signs a cooperation agreement to open an engineering school in Shanghai in September 2012**

Sunday, April 8, 2012, [ParisTech](#) has signed a cooperation agreement for the establishment of the Engineering School Shanghai Jiao Tong University-ParisTech in Shanghai. This project is supported by [Mines ParisTech](#), [Télécom ParisTech](#), [ENSTA ParisTech](#) and [École Polytechnique](#). A dozen representatives of ParisTech, including its President Cyrille Van Effenterre, the Director General of École Polytechnique and the Director of ENSTA Paris Tech, attended the signing ceremony of the agreement, held in occasion of the 116th anniversary of Jiao Tong University (SJTU - <http://en.sjtu.edu.cn>).

Sources: May 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.ensta-paristech.fr/fr/actualites/paristech-signe-un-accord-de-cooperation-pour-ouverture-d-une-ecole-d-ingenieurs-shanghai>

### **10.8 France Repeals Controversial Foreign-Student and Graduate Visa Restrictions**

June 1, 2012

The new French government has annulled a controversial measure that imposed stiff visa restrictions on foreign students and graduates, as the newly elected president, François Hollande, had promised to do during his election campaign.

The move to abandon the so-called Guéant circular, named for the interior minister who introduced it, was to take place a year to the day after it came into force, and the “new circular is understood to tell the relevant officials not to deport students whose temporary right to stay has run out and to speed up the handling of requests for working papers”, RFI reports.

Source: June 2012

Full article available at:

[http://chronicle.com/blogs/global/france-repeals-controversial-foreign-student-and-graduate-visa-restrictions/33273?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/global/france-repeals-controversial-foreign-student-and-graduate-visa-restrictions/33273?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

### **10.9 Higher Education and Research: a shared ambition for the future of France**

At a press conference at the Academy of Sciences last July 11, 2012, Genevieve Fioraso (French Minister for Research and Higher Education) presented the launching of a committee of stakeholders in research and education tasked to consult at local and national level and to propose ways of achieving the strategic goals set by the government. The priorities are to increase the success rates of undergraduate students and improve the professional training of university professors; the re-organization of research and higher education institutions and the revision of their governance models and policies. The first outcome with recommendations to the Parliament is expected in December 2012.

Source: August 2012



Full article available at:

<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid60901/assises-de-l-enseignement-superieur-et-de-la-recherche-une-ambition-partagee-pour-l-avenir-de-notre-pays.html>

#### **10.10 New French government initiative in Research and Higher Education**

At a press conference at the Academy of Sciences last July 11, 2012, Genevieve Fioraso (French Minister for Research and Higher Education) presented the launching of a committee of stakeholders in research and education tasked to consult at local and national level and to propose ways of achieving the strategic goals set by the government. The priorities are to increase the success rates of undergraduate students and improve the professional training of university professors; the re-organization of research and higher education institutions and the revision of their governance models and policies. The first outcome with recommendations to the Parliament is expected in December 2012.

Source: September 2012

Full article (in French) available at:

<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid60901/assises-de-l-enseignement-superieur-et-de-la-recherche-une-ambition-partagee-pour-l-avenir-de-notre-pays.html>

#### **10.11 France to increase budget for higher education and research in 2013**

The French Ministry for Higher Education and Research sees its 2013 budget increased by 2.2% reaching the total funding of just under €23 billion (US\$29 billion). This ministry is one of the few to escape spending cuts as the government unveiled its plans for the 2013 budget. As a result, 1,000 new university posts will be created, a third each going to lecturer-researchers, researchers and support staff, and none of the 68,449 publicly funded research jobs will be cut. Funding for research grants will rise by 1.2% to €7.86 billion, although that is a drop in real terms as inflation is expected to average 1.75% for the year. The funding split between the National Research Agency (ANR), which finances most projects, and basic research institutes is rebalanced. ANR allocations will shrink from €709 million to €687 million this year, and institutes will receive an extra €60 million for operating expenses. Changes to these plans may still occur as the final bill will be voted by the Parliament in December 2012.

Source: October 2012

Full article available at: <http://www.nature.com/news/french-science-dodges-austerity-1.11505>

#### **10.12 Franco-Chinese Symposium: 5 years of scientific collaboration between ANR and the NSFC**

A Franco-Chinese symposium was held in Paris September 19 and 20, 2012 bringing together 130 scientists from both countries. Organized by the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche, France) and the NSFC (National Natural Science Foundation of China) this conference showcased 41 projects financed by the two agencies since 2008. The thematic areas covered were science and information technology and communication, nanoscience and nanotechnology, engineering, materials, energy, geotechnical and environmental engineering. This event gathered French and Chinese teams working on the projects, and allowed to follow-up on the research carried out in the framework of ANR-NSFC funding. Among the positive outcomes, real synergies between French and Chinese researchers were created and the high expectations towards the program were achieved. Nearly two thirds of the projects stem from first contacts and collaborations initiated by various instruments of international cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and research organizations. All of these projects have deepened the emerging collaborations and significantly increased the number of exchanges and co-publications. The NSFC and ANR launched their annual joint program in 2008. The continuity of the initiative has led to the emergence of fifteen projects resulting from a new collaboration that did not exist before the launch of the program. A Chinese delegation composed of representatives of scientific departments and international relations department of the NSFC was present. Exchanges between NSFC and ANR have highlighted the success of the collaboration allowing to renew the Franco-Chinese partnership for 2013.

Source: October 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/magazine/actualites/detail/colloque-franco-chinois-5-annees-de-collaboration-scientifique-entre-lanr-et-la-nsfc>

### 10.13 France's Young Researchers Protest 'Precarious' Contracts

Early-career researchers across France staged protest against a new national employment law aimed at reducing the number of public employees working on short-term contracts. The researchers, who timed their demonstrations to coincide with a national consultative meeting on education and research policy being held in Paris on November 26-27, say the new law is emptying French labs of young workers and bringing promising research careers to a standstill. The Law Sauvadet, which was passed in March under former President Nicolas Sarkozy, was designed to reduce job insecurity by stipulating that employees working on short-term contracts—known as *contrats à durée déterminée (CDD)*—must be offered a permanent position after 6 years. But the law, which was designed with the entire public sector in mind, doesn't apply well to the world of research.

Source: December 2012

Full article available at: <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/11/frances-young-researchers-protos.html>

### 10.14 French Scientists Give Government an Earful

Make our life simpler. Stop the excessive reviews. Dial back the competition for money. Those were some of the key messages that the French higher education and research community sent during a massive, 4-month consultation set up by the government. The listening tour, led by an independent panel chaired by Nobel laureate and virologist Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, wrapped up with an animated 2-day meeting at the Collège de France in Paris, attended by some 700 people. The goal of the consultations launched by Higher Education and Research Minister Geneviève Fioraso: Prepare the ground for a new law, expected by mid-2013 that may put an end to some of the reforms launched by the government of Nicolas Sarkozy. The consultation also aimed to build trust between the socialist government of French President François Hollande and the scientific community.

Source: December 2012

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/11/french-scientists-give-governmen.html#more>

## 11 Germany

### 11.1 Max Planck Scientists Very Pleased about ERC Grants (Germany)

January 30, 2012

The Max-Planck-Gesellschaft has once again been successful in winning support from the European Research Council (ERC). With seven Advanced Grants, the MPG is Germany's top recipient of EU funding. In response to its fourth call for applications, the ERC conferred a total of 294 of these lucrative research awards, of which 52 went to German universities and research institutions.

Source: February 2012

More at:

[http://www.mpg.de/5004106/erc\\_grants\\_2012\\_en](http://www.mpg.de/5004106/erc_grants_2012_en)

### 11.2 One Month in India

*Press release by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the German Research Foundation and Fraunhofer (31.01.12)*

In February and March 2012, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and Fraunhofer join forces and organize events to present German innovation and research in India. The purpose of their joint effort "One Month in India" is to strengthen and expand R&D collaboration between Germany and India and to foster the mobility among scientists from both countries.

Source: February 2012

Full article available at:

[http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/presse/das\\_neueste/120131\\_pm\\_foma\\_indien\\_en.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/presse/das_neueste/120131_pm_foma_indien_en.pdf)

### 11.3 DFG Establishes 20 New Collaborative Research Centers

*From new therapies for multiple sclerosis via the heroic tradition to functional microgels / Innovative research approaches in all fields*

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is to establish 20 Collaborative Research Centers (CRCs) by 1 July 2012. This decision was taken by the Grants Committee at its spring session in Bonn. The new CRCs will receive funding totaling 176 million Euros (including a 20 percent program allowance for indirect project costs) for the initial 4-year funding period.

Source: June 2012

Full article available at

[http://www.dfg.de/en/service/press/press\\_releases/2012/press\\_release\\_no\\_23/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/service/press/press_releases/2012/press_release_no_23/index.html)

### 11.4 Peru - working together to solve global problems – Germany

Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Helge Braun, and the Peruvian Foreign Affairs Minister Rafael Roncagliolo have signed a joint declaration for close cooperation in the areas of education, science, research and innovation. This includes plans for specialist talks on topics such as health and environment research.

"With this agreement, Peru has become an important partner for Germany in the area of collaborative research," said Helge Braun. "This is absolutely in line with the Federal Government's internationalization strategy, which was agreed upon by the coalition: In order to find solutions to global issues like climate change or the fight against diseases and epidemics, researchers from around the world must work more closely together."

Source: June 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.bmbf.de/en/18926.php>

### 11.5 AcademiaNet brings excellent women researchers to the fore (Germany)

AcademiaNet is an Internet portal containing the profiles of outstanding women researchers in German-speaking countries. Created by the Robert Bosch Foundation and the science magazine "Spektrum der Wissenschaft" in 2010, the database makes it easier to find qualified female scientists to fill management positions and serve as members of scientific bodies. The SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation) joined up as a partner organization in 2011. This year, it is nominating scientists for the first time. Although women account for 45% of the degrees obtained at higher education institutions in Europe, they are still heavily under-represented in top scientific positions. The same is true for influential commissions that award prizes, appoint professors and approve funding. An often-cited reason for this is the difficulty of finding qualified female researchers. This is where AcademiaNet comes in: it allows decision-makers in science and industry to search systematically for outstanding female researchers.

Source: July 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.snf.ch/e/current/snfinfo/policy/pages/default.aspx?NEWSID=1721&WEBID=F6B532FB-64ED-466F-8816-193D4DE8DC94>

### 11.6 Multibillion-Dollar Program Has Had Little Effect at German Universities, Report Says

By Aisha Labi, July 23, 2012

Eight years ago, [Germany announced an effort](#) unprecedented for the European nation: It would have its universities compete for several billion dollars in public funds to spur them to distinguish themselves on the national and world stage. Other countries took notice, with some attempting similar strategies to vault their universities into the upper echelons of global rankings.

Source: July 2012

Full article available at:

[http://chronicle.com/article/Multibillion-Dollar-Program/133103/?cid=pm&utm\\_source=pm&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/Multibillion-Dollar-Program/133103/?cid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en)

### **11.7 Germany: New program on raw materials of the future**

The German Minister for Education and Research, Annette Schavan, has announced the launching of a new scientific research program targeting the development of innovative technologies to ensure raw materials are more efficiently used and better recycled in the future. The new program, named "Economically Strategic Raw Materials for a High-tech Germany", will concentrate on research and development along the entire supply chain of mineral raw materials which are not directly consumed in energy production. Areas such as the exploration, extraction, usage, recycling and replacement of mineral raw materials are to be researched as part of the new initiative. The results should provide innovative developments ensuring a greater level of retention of minerals such as rare earth materials, indium, gallium and metals of the platinum group for the raw materials supply chain. These minerals are especially important in the industries of telecommunication, environmental technologies and renewable energies. Funding totaling 200 million Euros will be supplied by the Ministry of Education and Research.

Source: November 2012

Full article available at: <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/inno-grips-ii/newsroom/germany-new-programme-research-and-develop-usage-raw-materials-future>

### **11.8 Opening of DWIH New Delhi: German Science and Industry Join Together in India**

Initiative Promotes Germany as a Location for Research and Innovation / 14 Partners with DFG as Coordinator

(31.10.12) The German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) opened its doors in India's capital, New Delhi, on 27 October 2012. It brings together 14 partners from science and industry, coordinated by the DFG. The institution's objective is to further promote Germany as a location for research and innovation and encourage Indo-German collaboration.

Source: November 2012

Full article available at:

[http://www.dfg.de/en/service/press/press\\_releases/2012/press\\_release\\_no\\_54/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/service/press/press_releases/2012/press_release_no_54/index.html)

### **11.9 Germany's research and higher education budget up 6.2% in 2013**

Germany's public research and higher education budget will increase 6.2 per cent to €13.7 billion (\$17.8 billion) in 2013, according to the government's budget plan for next year. Federal funding for research excellence in 2013 will be €680 million (\$883 million), according to the budget plan published on 23 November. This will be top-up money for projects mainly funded by the Länder (States), which are responsible for academic research and higher education funding. Germany has a research pact under which excellent research funding rises 5 per cent every year. The hi-tech strategy budget, which funds applied research in social challenges, will get €2.3 billion (\$3 billion) in 2013, nearly double its allocation for 2005, when it started. The money will go to large-scale research projects on health, fuel sources, food, and climate change.

Source: December 2012

Full article available at:

[http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com\\_news&template=rr\\_2col&view=article&articleid=1272922](http://www.researchresearch.com/index.php?option=com_news&template=rr_2col&view=article&articleid=1272922)

### **11.10 Scientific misconduct: decisions about three cases in Germany**

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is imposing sanctions following instances of scientific misconduct. Meeting in Bonn, the Joint Committee of Germany's central research funding organization has decided to take action against two researchers in accordance with the DFG's procedure for handling cases of scientific misconduct. In both cases, it complied with earlier

investigations undertaken and recommendations made by the DFG Committee of Inquiry on Allegations of Scientific Misconduct. A third allegation of scientific misconduct was not proven. In all three cases the allegations concerned data manipulation.

*Source: December 2012*

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=126905&CultureCode=en>

## 12 Ireland

### 12.1 Impact of the 2012 budget in the areas of R & D and education

The Irish Government presented its 2012 budget on December 6 and 7, 2011. In efforts to reduce government debt in Ireland, many cuts were announced.

**Measures for education** - The Ministry of Education (Department of Education and Skills) is affected by the 2012 budget. This ministry sees its budget reduced by 132 million Euros in 2012, down 2% compared to 2011 with a budget of 1.1 billion Euros.

#### *The main fiscal measures in education:*

- The most significant and most discussed in the media announcement, especially after the student protests which brought 20,000 people to the streets, is the increase of tuition fees by 250 Euros. An undergraduate student now has to pay 2,250 Euros in fees for the 2012/2013 school year - one should recall that the cost had increased from 1,500 to 2,000 Euros this school year (2011/2012). These fees were called until a year ago "student services fees" - they cover administrative costs and enrollment rather than tuition itself. The name was changed this year to "student contribution" which seems to reflect a reality where students contribute to more than fees.

- In general, student scholarships will be reduced, either by amount or by the number of beneficiaries. The most significant announcement is the 3% reduction in the amount student scholarships awarded on the basis of financial need. This measure applies to both existing and new scholarship recipients effective January 2012. In addition, in 2013, the award criteria for scholarships to students will be revised to take into account additional factors related to the student parents' wealth (primarily real estate), which will alter the number and profile of beneficiaries of the government scholarships.

- The research program Technological Sector Research Initiative (TSRI) for technology institutes in Ireland, distinct from the seven universities, is cancelled. Established in 2000, the program was divided into three areas: skills development for Masters' students, help with business creation, and development of research capacity to rectify a traditional situation in detriment of technology institutes with respect to universities. The program had a modest budget of 38 million Euros in its first life cycle (2000-2006). In recent years, about 6 million Euros were allocated to the program annually, a rather limited budget for a program in support of academic research.

**Measures concerning the technology sector** - The budget allocated to the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation) remains relatively intact. With 880 million Euros in 2012, the Ministry's budget cut is only 5 million Euros. The message sent by the Irish authorities stressed the important role of exports in economic growth in Ireland, for which the Irish government sets up public policies to foreign investment in key sectors. The tax rate on companies is maintained at 12.5% despite pressure from neighboring European countries. Minister Richard Bruton reiterated that the Irish government will defend this tax rate, a cornerstone of Irish industrial strategy.

#### *Significant fiscal measures affecting the technology sector are:*

1. For the research tax credit:
  - Research tax credit for companies investing in R & D: the initial investment amount taken into account in calculating the tax credit is increased to 100,000 Euros (with a rate of 25); beyond 100,000 Euros, the increase in R & D investment from one year to another is taken into account

- It is now possible to have contract R & D work while keeping the research tax credit (up to 100,000 Euros): very interesting for SMEs that can outsource such work in collaboration with public research centers
- Ability to distribute all or part of the research tax credit (probably without paying tax on these bonuses) to employees who worked on such R & D
- 2. For start-ups specifically: extension of tax exemptions to companies created in 2011, 2012 and 2013 (i.e. after those created in 2010) of tax exemptions ("corporate tax" and "capital tax exemption")
- 3. For multinationals: financial mechanisms to attract to Ireland specialists / experts from abroad ("Special Relief Program Assignee")
- 4. For all companies: new mechanism to provide financial support to companies whose employees spend more than 60 days developing export markets in the 'BRICS' emerging countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa ("Foreign Earnings Deduction")

Sources: January 2012

- *Electronic Bulletin*, December 21, 2011

- "Governments faces fees pressure as universities slide" - *Irish Times* - Sean Flynn – Oct 06 2011 – <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2011/1006/1224305331062.html>

- "Budget 2012 - Ireland's higher education spending to be cut by 2%" - *Silicon Republic* - John Kennedy – Dec 05 2011 –

<http://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/item/24837-budget-2012-irelands>

- "Budget 2012 - Enterprise given euros514m to focus on jobs" - *Silicon Republic* - John Kennedy – Dec 05 2011 –

<http://www.siliconrepublic.com/business/item/24839-budget-2012-enterprise>

- "Budget 2012 - Budget Impact on R&D Tax Credit Scheme for Irish firms" - *Silicon Republic* - Carmel Doyle – Dec 07 2011 – <http://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/item/24872-budget-2012-budget-impact>

- "Budget 2012: Impact on the Technology Sector" - *Deloitte* - Dec 2011 –

[http://www.deloitte.com/view/en\\_IE/ie/insights/budget-2012-ireland/bb92bd471d714310VgnVCM1000001a56f00aRCRD.htm](http://www.deloitte.com/view/en_IE/ie/insights/budget-2012-ireland/bb92bd471d714310VgnVCM1000001a56f00aRCRD.htm)

- Budget 2012 - Citizens Information -

[http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money\\_and\\_tax/budget\\_2012.html](http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money_and_tax/budget_2012.html)

## 12.2 Science Foundation Ireland appoints New Director General

*Monday January 9th 2012:* The Board of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) has appointed Professor Mark Ferguson as Director General of the organization. Professor Ferguson, a native of Northern Ireland, will take up the position on January 16th 2012. The appointment is for a five-year term.

Source: January 2012

<http://www.sfi.ie/news-events/press-releases/science-foundation-ireland-appoints-new-director-general>

## 13 Italy

### 13.1 Italian scientists convicted over earthquake warning

Six scientists and a government official were sentenced to six years in prison for manslaughter by an Italian court on Monday for failing to give adequate warning of an earthquake that killed more than 300 people in L'Aquila in 2009.

Source: October 2012

Full article available a : <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/22/us-italy-earthquake-court-idUSBRE89L13V20121022>

### 13.2 Italy's research institutes urged to collaborate

The heads of Italy's twelve national research institutes have been asked by the Italian Minister for Research, Francesco Profumo, to come up with ways of working more closely together, both to save



money and to boost their ability to compete for research funds from the European Union. The 12 institutes include the country's main science agency, the National Research Council, as well as the National Institute of Nuclear Physics, the Italian Space Agency and the National Institute for Astrophysics. The National Research Council will coordinate ideas for the plan, and proposals for reorganizing the research bodies to ensure more united and effective governance that will be presented by the end of January 2013 to the Parliament.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at: <http://www.nature.com/news/italy-s-research-institutes-urged-to-collaborate-1.11603>*

### **13.3 A Forward-Thinking Province Creates a Research Stronghold in Italy**

By Megan Williams

*Trento, Italy*

Standing in the sunshine by a towering 12th-century converted stone castle, Roberto Viola gestures to a valley of vineyards and the rounded, majestic mountains that spread out in the distance.

"This is our living lab, a work in progress," says Mr. Viola, the energetic director of the Research and Innovation Center of the Edmund Mach Foundation, a public research institution that conducts cutting-edge agricultural, nutritional, and environmental studies. Its most recent accomplishments include the genome sequencing of the pinot-noir grape and the Golden Delicious apple.

While the scientists here are blazing new paths in agricultural research, the political vision of local leaders is helping transform not just FEM, as the institution is called, but also the nearby University of Trento and 20 or so local centers for information and communications technology, biotech, and brain study into an Italian hub of research and innovation.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:*

*[http://chronicle.com/article/A-Forward-Thinking-Province/134424/?cid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/A-Forward-Thinking-Province/134424/?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)*

### **13.4 Italy Cancels €1 Billion Accelerator Project**

The Italian government has scrapped plans to build a particle accelerator known as SuperB in the outskirts of Rome after a new study calculated its total cost to be about €1 billion (\$1.3 billion) — some €350 million more than previously estimated. SuperB was to have been built on the campus of the University of Rome Tor Vergata to the south of the Italian capital by an international collaboration of scientists. It was to have consisted of two 1.2-kilometer-circumference rings that would have accelerated beams of electrons and positrons. Collisions between the beams would have allowed the study of extremely rare phenomena in the decay of B mesons and other exotic particles. That could help explain why the universe seems to be so dominated by matter, as opposed to antimatter. Some physicists were skeptical that cash-strapped Italy could afford to pay for such a machine. The Italian government said that it would provide €250 million of the €650 million budget, while other countries, including France and Russia, said they might pay a share of the costs. The United States, meanwhile, agreed to donate parts from its decommissioned PEP-II/BaBar "B-factory" at the SLAC laboratory in California for use in SuperB.

*Source: December 2012*

*<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/11/italy-cancels-1-billion-accelera.html#more>*

## **14 The Netherlands**

### **14.1 NWO invests 15.5 million in national research facilities (The Netherlands)**

12 June 2012

With its programme Investment Subsidy NWO Large, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) is investing 15.5 million Euros in large equipment, data collections and software. With this programme, NWO finances large scientific projects in which scientists from throughout the



Netherlands collaborate, often with international partners as well. The projects concern, for example, the collection of brain tissue for research into psychiatric brain disorders and the development of a neutron microscope that can produce high-resolution images of the position and movement of atoms and molecules.

*Source: July 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP\\_8V7FGE\\_Eng?open&nav=NWOP\\_5V2J7T](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP_8V7FGE_Eng?open&nav=NWOP_5V2J7T)

## 15 Norway

### 15.1 A Rocket Launched from Svalbard to Study the Aurora Borealis



An international team of scientists based in Svalbard, Longyearbyen and Ny-Alesund, waited for favorable weather conditions for the launch of a rocket for research on space weather whose goals is to discover why the GPS signals are disturbed by the Aurora Borealis.

Credit: Trond Abrahamsen / Andøya Rocket Range

The rocket ICI-3 is a two-stage rocket whose trajectory is calculated to catch the Aurora Borealis over the Svalbard archipelago. It is designed to fly for ten minutes at a maximum altitude of 350 km. The launch site is located at Ny-Alesund, 107 kilometers north of Longyearbyen. Its predecessor,

the ICI-2 rocket, was successfully launched in a similar campaign in December 2008 [1]. The objective of the mission is to observe the atmospheric instabilities and waves associated with the Aurora Borealis. These disturbances can affect, among other things, the accuracy of GPS devices, and knowledge in this area must be expanded. The ICI-3 was built by Andøya Rocket Range [2]. The material for the experiments on board was provided by various research groups involved in the project. French and Japanese scientists in particular have contributed to the instrumentation of the rocket.

The measurement campaign is led by Dr. Joran Moen [3], a professor at the University of Oslo [4] and associate professor at the University Center in Svalbard (UNIS) [5]. Ground support is provided through the EISCAT Svalbard radar [6], managed by the University of Leicester (UK) [7] and UNIS.

The measurement campaign officially began on November 22. All the teams involved in the project hoped to be able to make a successful launch before December 6, the closing date of the official campaign. The launch window is effective from 05:00 to 12:00 GMT every day, but it depends on the electromagnetic activity in the upper atmosphere and weather conditions on the ground. Every morning, Dag Lorentzen [8], professor at UNIS, and post doctoral associates Margit Dyrland and Lisa Baddeley have taken the long and winding road up to Kjell Henriksen Observatory [11], the UNIS station devoted to the aurora, where they helped the team of Ny-Alesund to identify the optimal conditions for the launch. On 27 November, the countdown reached T-3 minutes twice, but each time the launch had to be canceled because the scientific conditions had deteriorated.

The ICI-3 rocket was finally launched successfully on December 3. It reached an altitude of 354 km and intercepted an aurora borealis. The objectives of the research teams have been achieved, and the data collected are of excellent quality.

*Sources: January 2012*

*- Electronic Bulletin, December 20, 2011*

*- [1] Article UNIS launch ICI-2:*

[http://www.unis.no/60\\_NEWS/6040\\_Archive\\_2008/n\\_08\\_12\\_05\\_launch/Rocket\\_launch\\_news\\_05122008.htm](http://www.unis.no/60_NEWS/6040_Archive_2008/n_08_12_05_launch/Rocket_launch_news_05122008.htm)

- [2] Andøya Rocket Range: <http://www.rocketrange.no>

- [3] Dr Jøran Moen: [http://www.unis.no/35\\_STAFF/staff\\_webpages/geophysics/joran\\_moen/default.htm](http://www.unis.no/35_STAFF/staff_webpages/geophysics/joran_moen/default.htm)

- [4] UiO: <http://www.mn.uio.no/fysikk/english/research/news-and-events/news/2011/ici3/>

- [5] UNIS : <http://www.unis.no/default.htm>

- [6] Radar EISCAT Svalbard: <http://www.eiscat.se/about/info/ESR>

- [7] University of Leicester: <http://www2.le.ac.uk>

- [8] Prof. Dag Lorentzen:

[http://www.unis.no/35\\_STAFF/staff\\_webpages/geophysics/dag\\_lorentzen/default.htm](http://www.unis.no/35_STAFF/staff_webpages/geophysics/dag_lorentzen/default.htm)

- [9] Margit Dyrland:

[http://www.unis.no/35\\_STAFF/staff\\_webpages/geophysics/margit\\_dyrland/default.htm](http://www.unis.no/35_STAFF/staff_webpages/geophysics/margit_dyrland/default.htm)

- [10] Lisa Baddeley:

[http://www.unis.no/35\\_STAFF/staff\\_webpages/geophysics/lisa\\_baddeley/default.htm](http://www.unis.no/35_STAFF/staff_webpages/geophysics/lisa_baddeley/default.htm)

- [11] Observatory Kjell Henriksen: <http://kho.unis.no>

## 15.2 The quality of Norwegian research in the field of Earth Sciences

Under the control of the Norwegian Research Council [1], a committee of international experts evaluated the state of the Norwegian research in the geosciences [2]. The quality was anticipated to be generally good, and Norway could be an international leader in many areas.

The Earth Sciences cover a wide range of areas related to our planet, including its atmosphere. According to the committee, Norway could be regarded as a leader in the fields of climate research, meteorology, atmospheric research, marine geology/geophysics and oil. *"The committee announced that the country could be proud of its strength in these disciplines"* says Anders Hanneborg [3], Director of the Division of Sciences and coordinator of the evaluation. He said: *"The report also identifies challenges related to management and strategy. The Norwegian Research Council and the various research institutes concerned will now be able to address these problems."*

Climate research is an area of high priority in which geosciences research plays an important role. *"Geology helps us develop our understanding of the climate system and its changes, and contributes to the knowledge of some of the consequences of these changes on nature: landslides, avalanches, etc.,"* says Camilla Schreiner [4], Director of the Department for Climate and Polar Research. In addition, operations in the oil sector are highly dependent on the quality of geological research. *"It is crucial for the exploitation of oil and gas resources on the Norwegian continental shelf and for the training of professionals"* says Siri Helle Friedemann [5], Director of Oil Research. She stressed that in the vast program PETROMAKS [6], developed by the Norwegian Research Council and focused on the oil industry, much basic research deals with geology.

The publication rate in the field of Earth Sciences is quite high in Norway; the total number of citations in Earth Sciences internationally places in fourth place among all disciplines in Norway. Also according to the committee, universities represent a much larger share of the international publications than research institutes. The lack of leadership and a clear strategy could lead to branching into too many topics and a lack of focus in recruitment. The committee recommends that research institutes prioritize efforts towards developing strategic plans, focusing on research activities for which it is necessary to strengthen and further develop the scientific community.

The Norwegian Research Council will soon invite relevant institutions and communities to provide feedback on how these challenges can be addressed both at the national and local levels. These comments will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Council which will make suggestions for organizing solutions.

Sources: January 2012

Electronic Bulletin, December 20, 2011

- [1] Norwegian Research Council: [http://www.forskningradet.no/en/Home\\_page/1177315753906](http://www.forskningradet.no/en/Home_page/1177315753906)

- [2] [www.forskningsradet.no](http://www.forskningsradet.no)
- [3] Anders Hanneborg: [http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Employee/Anders\\_Hanneborg/1161810048599](http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Employee/Anders_Hanneborg/1161810048599)
- [4] Camilla Schreiner: [http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Employee/Camilla\\_Schreiner/1253955319587](http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Employee/Camilla_Schreiner/1253955319587)
- [5] Siri Helle Friedemann: [http://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Ansatt/Siri\\_Helle\\_Friedemann/1137742914484](http://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Ansatt/Siri_Helle_Friedemann/1137742914484)
- [6] PETROMAKS Program: <http://www.forskningsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1226993690920&pagename=petromaks%2FHovedsidemal>

### 15.3 Norway: Funding boost for Science Centers

Norway's eight science centers will get a long-awaited increase of NOK 8.8 million (1.5 million USD) in the national budget for 2013. This means the Research Council of Norway will be able to allocate more than NOK 35 million (6 million USD) for the science centers next year. In Norway, a science centre is a popular scientific recreation and learning centre for mathematics, natural science and technology where children and adults alike can learn by conducting experiments themselves. The centers provide a platform for encouraging children and adolescents to learn more about sciences and to enhance recruitment to these subject areas.

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:*

[http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/More\\_money\\_for\\_the\\_science\\_centres/1253981044042/p1177315753918](http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/More_money_for_the_science_centres/1253981044042/p1177315753918)

## 16 Romania

### 16.1 Laser centre lights up in Romania

On September 18, the European Commission announced the spending of €180 million (US\$237 million) on the first phase of construction of the Extreme Light Infrastructure Nuclear Physics Facility (ELI-NP) that will generate laser pulses with up to 10 petawatts ( $10^{16}$  watts) of power, ten times the strength of current cutting-edge lasers — and intense enough to reveal the internal structures of atomic nuclei. “It will allow us to do a new sort of nuclear physics that hasn’t been possible so far,” says project leader Nicolae-Victor Zamfir, director-general of the Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering in Măgurele, Romania, where the facility will be located. “The energy of the laser-light pulses will be almost at the level of the strong force that binds nuclei, so it will be able to perturb them.”

*Source: October 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.nature.com/news/laser-centre-lights-up-eastern-europe-1.11438>

### 16.2 Plagiarism exposed in Romanian grant applications

Grant administrators from the Romanian government agencies were alerted in February this year of 14 suspect plagiarism cases each involving nearly half a million Euros requested for research funding. The council confirmed plagiarism in four cases this spring. Now the initiative integru.org, which publishes evidence of plagiarism by scientists in Romania along with comments from international experts, reports its findings on a fifth case.

*Source: November 2012*

*Full article available at:* <http://www.nature.com/news/plagiarism-exposed-in-romanian-grant-applications-1.11758>

## 17 Russia

### 17.1 Russia's University Mergers Pit the Old School against the New

The rector of Ural Federal University (Russia) has a problem: several hundred professors and administrators in the economics faculty are fighting with each other. The conflict began two years ago, when the national government began a program of university mergers, pairing local institutions with more elite universities. The plan was to create academic powerhouses, with more independence and better financial support.

*Sources: May 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://chronicle.com/article/Russias-University-Mergers/131844/>

## 18 Spain

### 18.1 Launch of ALINNSA, Spanish sister of the French AVIESAN

ALINNSA, the Alliance for Research and Innovation in the field of Life Sciences and Health, was formally established on September 21, 2011 under the auspices of the Minister of Science and Innovation, Ms. Garmendia. ALINNSA intends to group government (State and Autonomous Communities), public and private research and innovation players in the biomedical sector in Spain.

*The objectives of the new alliance are:*

1. Identify the major health challenges facing society as related to their research and innovation dimension. Participate in the programming of Research, Development and Innovation (RDI).
2. Set the "triple helix" (academia, industry, government) in motion through the promotion of Research and Innovation in Life Sciences and Health.
3. Provide a model of governance, leadership and management of the Alliance.
4. Design an effective architecture for the Alliance.
5. Propose actions to support allocation of resources in Research, Development and Innovation.
6. Strengthen public-private partnerships.
7. Encourage sponsorship.
8. Propose actions in cooperation with other organizations in view of the internationalization of the RDI system

Chaired by Mr. Jose Jerónimo Navas, Director General of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Spanish counterpart of the French INSERM, ALINNSA is in the process of establishing its governance structures. The Executive Committee held its first meeting on December 12 to begin work on resource mapping, definition of thematic areas, and preparation of a portfolio of projects common to the members of the Alliance. It will then be up to the "Governing Board" of ALINNSA to adopt its Strategic Plan.

The process that led to the creation of this alliance is very similar to the one of AVIESAN in France; it has also served as inspiration for the Spanish. One notable difference, however: while AVIESAN includes only the public research sector in life sciences and health, ALINNSA also involves the private sector - a goal of its founders is to strengthen the relationship between academic and industrial sectors in the service of innovation, the latter remains a weak point in this area where Spain has developed very strong scientific skills.

In any event, the launch of this "little sister" of AVIESAN opens up opportunities for interesting collaborations to develop a special relationship between France and Spain in the field of life sciences and health. Such collaborations, explicitly suggested by the president of ALINNSA, could form the nucleus of a wider structuring process across Europe through, for example, joint programming, participation in R&D framework programs or in the future knowledge and innovation communities of the European Institute of Technology.

*Sources: January 2012*

*Electronic Bulletin December 16, 2011*

<http://www.alinnsa.es/index.php>

<http://www.aviesan.fr/>

## 18.2 Spanish research and innovation in the spotlight in India

After the visit to China by Minister Garmendia at the end of October, Spain was this year the guest of honor at the Indian "Technology Summit & Technology Platform". This 17th edition organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry was held in New Delhi from November 22 to 24, 2011. The Spanish delegation was led by Juan Tomás Hernani, General Secretary for Innovation in the Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MICINN) and Arturo Azcorra, director of the Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI). The targeted themes of this bilateral meeting between Spanish and Indian companies and research centers were renewable energy, water, and biotechnology and health.

### *The scientific links between Spain and India*

Institutional links between Spain and India in the field of research and innovation have been established recently. In 2007, the CDTI contributed to the development of the India and Spain Innovative Program (ISIP). This program has already resulted in eight collaborative projects for technology development or technology transfer. A ninth project should be announced soon and eight additional ones are under consideration. In addition, the program is a tool for linking businesses and building consortia that can lead to joint ventures.

A Program for Scientific Cooperation was also signed in 2009 between the MICINN and DST. Following the first call for projects that year, 25 joint research projects were selected in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, renewable energy, information and communication technologies (ICTs). Two million Euros were invested in the program by the MICINN. A new call was launched in 2011. Fourteen projects should be funded in this second competition, with up to \$1.5 million from the MICINN. In addition, two Spanish-Indian conferences were organized within the cooperation framework: the first one in Bangalore on ICTs and a second one on renewable energy in Seville.

### *Assessment of the event*

For Spain, having been invited to this bilateral exchange with India in 2010, after Germany in 2010 and Finland in 2009, is already a victory. This allows the country to be seen as a great power of science and technology. The assessment of the meeting was very positive. The arrival of 120 Spanish delegates representing 75 companies and research centers has resulted in over 300 meetings with Indian partners. Ultimately, these discussions have resulted in 175 statements of intent to serve as starting point in setting up new projects or agreements. Concurrently with the meeting, the third Spanish-Indian scientific conference took place, this one on health topics.

Four new agreements were signed. The first two are CDTI agreements with the Indian Department of Biotechnology and with the Indian Ministry of Renewable Energy to fund new projects for technology cooperation in these areas. The other two agreements are extensions of previous agreements signed in 2007 and 2009. Following these exchanges, an Indian delegation is scheduled to visit Spain in 2012.

### *Sources: January 2012*

- *Electronic Bulletin*, December 16, 2011

- "España participa en India en una Cumbre bilateral sobre tecnología", MICINN, Nov 21 2011 – <http://www.micinn.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.edc7f2029a2be27d7010721001432ea0/?vgnextoid=2f8da32f1f4c3310VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD>

- "Gran éxito de la participación española en la Cumbre Tecnológica Bilateral con India", MICINN, Dec 05 2011 –

<http://www.micinn.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.edc7f2029a2be27d7010721001432ea0/?vgnextoid=b20bd87da0d04310VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD>

## 18.3 Carmen Vela Olmo, new Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation of the Spanish Government

Carmen Vela Olmo was appointed to the new Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation position by the Council of Ministers on December 30, 2011.



Ms. Vela, 56 years old, holds a BS in Chemistry from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. While a PhD student at the Jimenez Diaz Foundation (Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Ms. Vela joined in 1982 the newly created biotechnology company Ingenasa, which specializes in animal health and food safety. She is the company's executive director after having saved it from bankruptcy; Ingenasa now employs 43 people.

A specialist in virology and immunology, Ms. Vela is the author of numerous articles and several patents. Her work focused on the mechanisms of allergic reactions, the design of diagnostic virology testing, and development of vaccines against parvovirus.

A former president of the Association of Women Scientists and Technologists (AMIT) (2007-2010), Ms. Vela has been President of the Spanish Society of Biotechnology (SEBIOT) since October 2010, member of the board of the National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), and of the Advisory Council for Science and Technology of the Ministry of Science and Innovation.

*Additional information available at:*

- Carmen Vela "will do everything possible to create the National Agency for Research as planned"  
*Agencia SINC, January 3, 2012*

<http://www.agenciasinc.es/Noticias/Carmen-Vela-hara-todo-lo-posible-por-crear-la-Agencia-de-Investigacion-en-los-plazos-previstos>

- De Guindos receives 20,000 petitions to fire Carmen Vela, *Europa Press, January 12, 2012*  
<http://www.europapress.es/sociedad/ciencia/noticia-remiten-guindos-20000-peticiones-cese-carmen-vela-20120112122629.html>

- Scientists support Carmen Vela, the controversial Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation, *El Mundo, January 11, 2012* -  
<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2012/01/11/ciencia/1326298990.html>

*Sources: January 2012*

- *Electronic Bulletin, January 17, 2012*

#### **18.4 Emilio Lora-Tamayo presides the CSIC again**

Emilio Lora-Tamayo, PhD in Physics was appointed president of the National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) by the Council of Ministers on January 13. He succeeds Rafael Rodrigo who held this position since 2008 ... but he also succeeds himself: indeed, Mr. Lora-Tamayo presided over CSIC from 2003 to 2004 under the government of Aznar. Mr. Lora-Tamayo, an expert on semiconductors and silicon technology for micro- and nanosystems, was the director of the CSIC Institute of Microelectronics in Barcelona since 2008. Mr. Lora-Tamayo attended the University Paul Sabatier and the National School of Aeronautics and Space in Toulouse, and the Laboratory of Electronics and Informatics in Grenoble, France.

*Sources: January 2012*

*Electronic Bulletin, January 17, 2012*

*El investigador Emilio-Tamayo, nuevo presidente del CSIC, CSIC press release January 13, 2012* -  
<http://www.csic.es>

#### **18.5 Spanish changes are scientific suicide**

*If research continues to be sidelined, Spain will be left with little domestic expertise, warns Amaya Moro-Martín.*

Spain no longer has a ministry of science. In the last days of 2011, its new government transferred national science policy to the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, a duty for which this ministry seems most unsuited. Science was an unwelcome addition that absorbed more than half of the €1,083 million (US\$1,438 million) budget cut imposed on the ministry. This sends an alarming signal of the sacrifices that science may face when the government releases its budget for 2012 next month.

*Source: February 2012*



Full article available at:

[http://www.nature.com/polopoly\\_fs/1.10027!/menu/main/topColumns/topLeftColumn/pdf/482277a.pdf](http://www.nature.com/polopoly_fs/1.10027!/menu/main/topColumns/topLeftColumn/pdf/482277a.pdf)

## **18.6 Funding uncertainty strands Spain's young scientists**

Spanish researchers are feeling the budget squeeze — until now restricted to creditors of Spain's regional governments — as the country scrambles to negotiate a 2012 budget.

Last November, Diego de la Fuente, a graduate student in astronomy at the National Aerospace Technical Institute in Madrid, made a bet. He would gamble travel costs and two months' living expenses of his own money to visit the United States in March and April this year to work with astronomer Donald F. Figer at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. At the time, the bet seemed a safe one: de la Fuente's name was on a provisional list of mobility-grant winners under the Research Personnel Training programme run by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.

Source: March 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.nature.com/news/funding-uncertainty-strands-spain-s-young-scientists-1.10177>

## **19 Sweden**

### **19.1 Six Swedish agencies submit their joint proposal to the Government on the future law on research and innovation**

Six Swedish agencies - FAS (Swedish Council for Working Life of Labor and Social Research), Formas (Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning), the Space Agency, the Energy Agency, the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) and the Research Council (VR) - submitted a joint proposal to the government on the future law on research and innovation.

These agencies have identified seven areas where research efforts should focus:

- 1) learning, cognition, communication
- 2) social development and vulnerability
- 3) digital technologies
- 4) medical technologies
- 5) biological variability
- 6) wellbeing, working conditions, lifestyle and health
- 7) the origins of and conditions for life

The six agencies have proposed several measures:

- A competition that rewards quality: the agencies recommend a distribution of government grants in accordance with clear criteria of quality and not quantity.
- Better use of research facilities in universities and colleges: the agencies believe that universities and higher education institutions should play an important role in the Swedish innovation system and actively interact with industry and the public sector.
- Stimulation of international mobility and recruitment: the agencies propose that the government appoint a commission to facilitate the recruitment of international researchers.
- A cooperation program more efficient: the agencies suggest a new program of collaborations between SMEs, large companies, public agencies, universities and research institutes. The aim is to strengthen Swedish competitiveness.
- A national strategy for research and innovation at the European level: the agencies propose that VINNOVA be charged with coordination of national efforts to improve European policies and to advocate Swedish interests.

Source: February 2012  
Swedish Research Council (VR) - <http://www.vr.se>

### **19.2 Swedish Government proposal for the reorganization of the Higher Education agencies**

The Swedish government wants to reform the higher education agencies. Sweden currently has three agencies:

- Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket): agency that watches over the quality of training, updates statistics, assesses training, prepares reports for government
- Agency of Services for Higher Education (Verket för högskoleservice): agency in charge of the mode of selection of students in universities, it also evaluates foreign high school degrees and grades
- Agency for Trade and Academic Mobility (Internationella programkontoret): agency responsible for international exchange programs including Erasmus and Comenius (EU).

The proposed reform aims to set up two agencies from the three entities:

- An agency responsible for the quality of training and evaluation of the effectiveness of university resources.
- An agency responsible for advancement, for international cooperation and for services to institutions.

This new setup will be effective January 1, 2013.

Sources: May 2012  
Electronic Bulletin, April 19, 2012  
Official Statement of the Ministry of Education (in Swedish):  
<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/15621/a/189789>

### **19.3 Swedish government plans major investments in science**

The Swedish government has proposed to raise its spending on research by adding \$609 million (SEK \$4 billion) to the annual budget by 2016, a 13.2% increase. Under the plan, an Elite Program would get \$45.8 million per year by 2016 to offer the country's best researchers an opportunity to start long-term risky projects, while \$38 million annually will be used to attract top international researchers to Sweden and provide them with substantial resources for research. Both programs will be managed by the Swedish Research Council (VR), an agency within the Ministry of Education and Research. The plan also increases the universities' budgets by \$137 million annually by 2016, without any earmarks. The new money also benefits large research infrastructures. By 2016, \$30 million yearly will go directly to the Science for Life Laboratory, a national center in Stockholm and Uppsala for large-scale research in bioscience, medicine, and environment. The European Spallation Source (ESS), a next-generation neutron-science facility, and MAX IV, a new synchrotron, both based in Lund, will receive a total of \$95.8 million and \$15.3 million respectively over the next 4 years.

Source: October 2012  
Full article available at: <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/09/bucking-european-trend-swedish-g.html>

### **19.4 Sweden: Stockholm University invests in international relations**

By investing 100 million SEK (15 million USD) in international relations, Stockholm University intends to stimulate the academic environment and strengthen the University's position in the international market. In addition to a call for 25 two-year postdoctoral positions and recruitment of international researchers, an institute for advanced studies is being established which will be open for 15-20 guest researchers. The institute will be a meeting place for researchers active in different fields, thus creating scientific value for the University. In order to promote exchanges, calls for 50 sabbatical semesters for teachers will also be advertised. "The high scientific quality that we currently have at the University also needs to be stimulated here by the international perspective. Therefore, we are setting up an institute with inspiration from Princeton, which is the most famous example," says Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Stockholm University.

Source: October 2012

Full article available at: <http://www.su.se/english/about/news-and-events/press/press-releases/stockholm-university-takes-its-place-in-the-world-investing-100-million-in-international-relations-1.102871>

## 20 Switzerland

### 20.1 Swiss mobility fellowships and grants for doctoral students: Innovations in 2013

Make it clear, streamlined and flexible: these are some of the goals pursued by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in restructuring its mobility fellowships for stays abroad. In addition, the SNSF will increase its support for doctoral students as of 2013 by means of a new excellence scheme in the humanities and social sciences.

Source: December 2012

Full article available at:

<http://www.snf.ch/e/current/snfinfo/policy/pages/default.aspx?NEWSID=1803&WEBID=F6B532FB-64ED-466F-8816-193D4DE8DC94>

## 21 United Kingdom

### 21.1 RCUK Impact Report 2011 highlights how the Research Councils are maximizing the impact of UK research

Research Councils UK (RCUK) has today (4 January) published the *RCUK Impact Report 2011* which complements the impact reports prepared by the individual Research Councils for the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

The report details the various activities through which the Research Councils are working together to achieve greater impact. This includes collaboration with partners in key commercial sectors, the Technology Strategy Board and governmental departments. It also highlights the impact of the six major cross-Council themes and how the Research Councils will develop the impact agenda through the current spending review period. The report concludes by setting out aims of the RCUK Impact Strategy.

Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts said: "These reports demonstrate that the UK is a world leader in science and research. From the development of groundbreaking new treatments to studies that shape public policy and improve lives, the significant economic and societal impact of the UK research base is extremely impressive."

RCUK define impact to include the many ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals and organizations. As well as stimulating economic growth, excellent research with impact can increase the effectiveness of public services and policy and enhance the quality of life, health and creative output of society.

Professor Dave Delpy, RCUK Impact Champion said: "The UK research base is one of the best in the world and we should be proud of the impact it has both here and abroad. In addition to the outstanding research we support, the Research Councils continue to invest in schemes and partnerships that increase the impact of this research. It is vitally important to demonstrate the value that the UK's excellent research contributes to the economic growth, prosperity and wellbeing of the UK, both now and in the future."

Sources: 04 January 2012

A copy of the RCUK Impact Report 2011 is available at

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/reports/Pages/RCUKImpactReport2011.aspx>

[http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/media/news/2012news/Pages/120103\\_4.aspx](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/media/news/2012news/Pages/120103_4.aspx)

### 21.2 New Grant Will Support British, American, and Indian Partnerships

The British Council is excited to announce the first trilateral strand of the successful UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) with the launch of the new Trilateral Research in Partnership (TRIP) Awards with the United States. Ten awards of up to £50,000 (USD \$75,000) in funds will be available to support multidisciplinary research projects between UK, US and Indian higher education institutions.

*Source: January 2012*

*More at:*

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/usa-education-partnerships-ukieri.htm>

### **21.3 Minister for Universities and Science Outlines New UK High-Tech Strategy and Lauds U.S. Approach**

Universities and Science Minister David Willetts argued in a January 4 speech given at Policy Exchange in London that the UK's greatest national assets – universities, science facilities and researchers – are the best single hope for making one's way in the high-tech world of the future, creating jobs and opportunities and boosting high tech economic growth.

*Source: February 2012*

*More at:*

<http://www.usembassy.org.uk/esthblog/2012/01/05/minister-for-universities-and-science-outlines-new-uk-high-tech-strategy-and-lauds-u-s-approach/>

### **21.4 Changes to NERC support for postgraduate training**

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) of the United Kingdom has agreed a new strategic approach to supporting postgraduate training, developed as part of NERC's Training Allocation and Delivery Mechanisms Review.

The review considered how NERC should support its investment in postgraduate training and sets out some significant changes. The principal changes are driven by the need to place more emphasis on ensuring that the quality of the training environment delivers NERC's strategic needs, as defined by a set of success criteria.

*Source: March 2012*

*Full article available at:*

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/postgrad/changes.asp>

NERC: Natural Environment Research Council in the United Kingdom (<http://www.nerc.ac.uk>)

### **21.5 Britain Requires Open-Access Publishing for Publicly Financed Research (UK)**

The British government will by 2014 require all publicly financed research to be made available free. The [announcement](#) follows the [recommendations](#) in a government-commissioned report that was published last month. Removing the paywalls that now surround most publicly financed research “will allow academics and businesses to develop and commercialize their research more easily and herald a new era of academic discovery,” David Willetts, the country's universities minister, said in a written statement. Although there is wide support for the move, according to [The Guardian](#), some scientists are unhappy since no new money will be provided by the government to pay the cost of the transition to open-access publishing, which “could lead to less research and fewer valuable papers being published.”

*Source: July 2012*

[http://chronicle.com/blogs/global/britain-requires-open-access-publishing-for-publicly-financed-research/33949?cid=pm&utm\\_source=pm&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/global/britain-requires-open-access-publishing-for-publicly-financed-research/33949?cid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en)

### **21.6 United Kingdom provides 95 million USD funding to universities to boost innovation**

The United Kingdom Business Secretary Vince Cable announced on November 15 a £60m (95 million USD) investment in UK universities to help the most pioneering scientists and engineers create successful businesses from their research, improve industrial collaboration and foster greater entrepreneurship. The funding comes from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

(EPSRC), the UK's main funding agency for scientific research. They will award 'Impact Acceleration Accounts' ranging from £600,000 to £6 million to 31 universities across the UK.

*Source: November 2012*

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2012/Pages/60millionboostforscienceinnovation.aspx>

*If you would like additional information or background, please feel free to contact Carine Polliotti at [cpolliot@nsf.gov](mailto:cpolliot@nsf.gov) or Ana Helman at [ahelman@nsf.gov](mailto:ahelman@nsf.gov)*